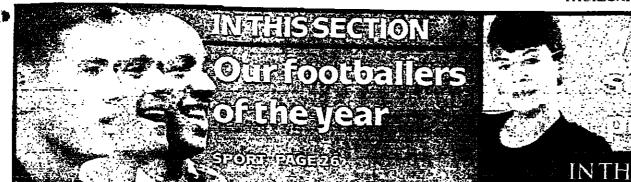
THE INDEPENDENT

THURSDAY 31 DECEMBER 1998



IN THE THURSDAY REVIEW WITH EDUCATION

MPs back Prescott over 'old values'

CABINET MINISTERS and MPs By PAUL WAUGH lined up yesterday behind the call by John Prescott and Gordon Brown for the Government to return to "traditional" Labour values.

More than half a dozen minbenchers are understood to have welcomed the shift in direction after the resignation of Peter Mandelson.

Political Correspondent

Prescott was Margaret Beckett, Leader of the House, who suggested that the Chancellor may bring forward investment plans isters and scores of back- to combat the threat of unemployment next year.

In what some MPs described as a "bloodless coup", opponents of Mr Mandelson's The most senior minister to aggressive New Labour procome out publicly behind Mr gramme seized their chance

while Tony Blair was on holiday in the Seychelles.

Calls for greater intervention in the economy and an end to close links with the Liberal Democrats reached a new intensity as the party took in the full impact of the Deputy Prime Minister's new alliance with the Chancellor.

Mr Prescott's call for "Keynesian" economics and more "substance" in government policy – in an interview in

yesterday's Independent reverberated through Westminster as it became clear that the more unpopular elements of the New Labour "project" face the axe.

Downing Street moved to play down divisions yesterday and Mr Blair used his new year message to reassure voters that the New Labour programme was still on track. But after the loss of Mr Mandelson, the Prime Minister is facing stri-

dent calls to ditch his co-operation pact with Paddy Ashdown. The Lib-Lab deal infuriated many in the party as it offered the prospect of Liberal Democrats having a say in key policies such as health and education.

"Tony is looking increasingly isolated on the links with the Liberals. There is a new mood around and Prescott embodies it," said a senior party source.

Mr Prescott today issues his own new year message stress-

ing that Labour should be "staying true to its traditional values of social justice, strong communities and improving opportunity for all". He continues: "We have a record to be proud of, so let's get our message across to ordinary people, so they know what we are achieving."

Ken Jackson, general secretary of the AEU engineering union, normally a staunch supporter of New Labour policies, also praised Mr Prescott's

initiative. "Our members need real policies, not flashy presentation. Their jobs won't be saved by spin," he said. "The clear majority of party members have no interest in hopping into bed with the nearest Liberal. It's time to get back to our real priorities on health, education and jobs. We shouldn't be trying to forge new links with the Liberals because history shows

that they do us no favours."

believed to have been brought forward to reassert his authority, Mr Blair says: "Of course, from time to time, the Government - like any - will suffer knocks ... But they come and they go. What stays is the sense of national purpose. What stays is the manifesto on which the Government was elected, a programme for reform and renewal. A programme which, line by line, we are putting in place.

Wall of **snow** kills four

on Scots peak

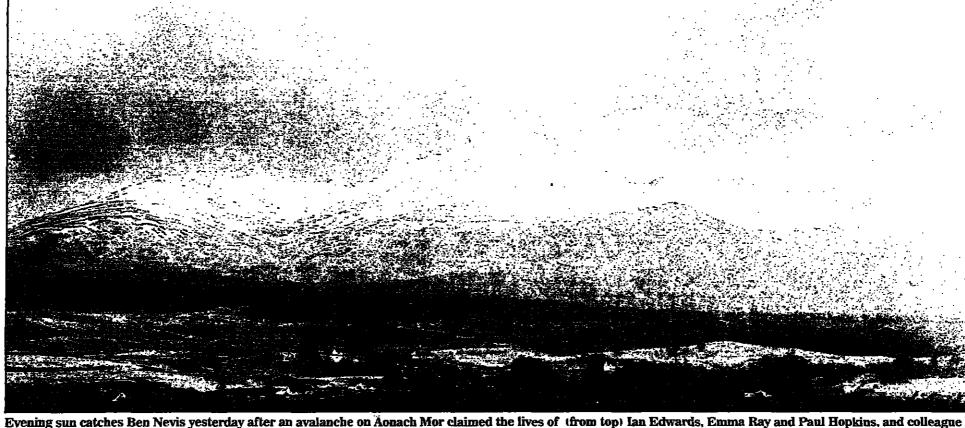
> BY KIM SENGUPTA and STEPHEN GOODWIN

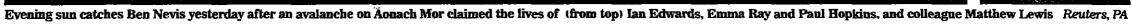
THE BODIES of four climbers killed in the worst avalanche disaster in the Scottish Highlands were recovered yesterday.

Three others from the party of Venture Scouts survived despite being buried alive for almost 16 hours in freezing snow before rescuers reached them in the early hours of yesterday.

Last night, questions were be og asked as to why the extition at Aonach Mor in the shadow of Ben Nevis took place despite serious warnings of an avalanche.

Donald Dewar the Secretary of State for Scotland, said that a detailed investigation would





be carried out. He added: "The loss of four young lives is a terrible reminder that Scotland's mountains - so often celebrated for their beauty - hold a treacherous partnership with

Mountain rescue experts described their astonishment that three of the party had survived

perceived knowledge on staying alive through such a huge avalanche would now have to be changed, they said.

A hand sticking out through the snow, caught in the torch bearn of one of the rescue party. led to the survivors being found.

being entombed for so long They were taken down by a ski Kent and had known each other under more than 3ft of ice. The lift to hospital at Fort William for years, All six were members kins, 28, from Wilmington; and where they were found not to have suffered serious injuries. It is believed the climbers managed to dig air pockets in the snow covering them. One told how she breathed through her

hand to stop choking. The climbers were all from

of the Dartford Scout Fellowship, having been close friends since joining the Scouts and then Venture Scouts as youngsters. They were all described last night as "fun-loving" peo-

ple who lived life to the full. The dead were named as

lift to hospital at Fort William for years, All six were members kins, 28, from Wilmington; and Matthew Lewis, 28, and Ian Edwards, 30, both from Dartford. The survivors are Steven Newton, 24, from Dartford; Sarah Finch, 25, of Longfield; and their local guide Roger Wild.

from Fort William. Mr Wild, the instructor, is

capital, Sanaa, on Tuesday.

one of the country's most exran his own school. He is also a member of the Lochaber Mountain Rescue Team.

The area had been battered by a force 9 gale and the Scottish Avalanche Information Service had issued a category 3 warning for the area, signify-

perienced mountaineers and avalanche when the party set off on Tuesday morning for the 4.006ft Aonach Mor.

> At about 3.500ft they were engulfed by a wall of cascading snow. Mr Wild's wife raised the alarm after he failed to return by 10.30pm on Tuesday. A hand in the snow, page 3

Major heads honours list for peace | Hostages tell of agony

JOHN MAJOR and the former By PAUL WAUGH S Senator George Mitchell are mong the key architects of the Northern Ireland peace process to be rewarded in the New Year honours today.

The former prime minister is created a Companion of Honour, the highest honour available to the Queen, while Mr Mitchell receives the equally rare honorary knighthood bestowed upon foreign nationals.

But Tony Blair's attempt to use his third honours list to Political Correspondent

mark the historic Good Friday Agreement ran into trouble when it emerged that leading nationalist politicians had turned down honours. Downing Street took the unprecedented step yesterday of revealing that members of the "nationalist community" had been offered awards but declined them.

It is likely that senior figures in John Hume's Social Demoapproached, but refused because they entailed recognition of "the British Empire".

John de Chastelain, the Canadian general who cochaired the peace talks, receives a Companion of Honour, and Quentin Thomas, the civil servant who first made secret contact with the IRA under Mr Major's administration, receives a knighthood.

Ronnie Flanagan, the Royal

The list includes high achievers from sport, show business and industry, but puts a strong emphasis on more "ordinary public servants in schools, the

NHS and community groups. Robert Carlyle, the actor who starred in the hit films Trainspotting and The Full Monty, receives an OBE, as do the pop singers Dusty Springfield and Tom Jones.

Lenny Henry, the comedian Ulster Constabulary's chief con- and Comic Relief founder, gets

cratic and Labour Party were stable, also becomes a knight. a CBE, together with actress Maureen Lipman and the for-

mer James Bond, Roger Moore. There is a knighthood for Frank Williams, the Formula One motor-racing team boss, and MBEs for the boxer Prince Naseem Hamed and the snook er star Jimmy White.

TV's Yes Minister, is knighted, as is Nicholas Serota, director of the Tate Gallery.

who played Sir Humphrey in Honours list, pages 12-13

Nigel Hawthorne, the actor

BRITAIN AND Australia are to BY STEVE BOGGAN demand an explanation from the

Yemeni government after Victor Henderson, the claims by survivors of a disas-British ambassador, was due to trous rescue attempt that its meet the Yemeni Prime Minister and Interior Minister last troops opened fire first, resulting in the deaths of four tourists. night to seek an explanation for Survivors of the drama told the forces' actions. The Yemenis had said earlier that they yesterday how they were used as human shields by their Isacted only after the kidnappers began killing hostages. Before the attack, Mr Henderson had lamic extremist kidnappers after government forces stormed their hide-out in alinsisted that no violence or Wadea, 175 miles south of the rescue attempt should be

The Australian Prime Minister, John Howard, said his government would "vigorously" pursue the Yemeni government to discover what led to the two-hour gun battle in which three Britons, Ruth Williamson. 34, Margaret Whitehouse, 52. and Peter Rowe, 60, and Aus-

tralian Andrew Thirsk, 35, died Tension in the region eased slightly yesterday with the release of four Germans who had been held hostage since 6 December. Used as shields, page 4

INSIDE THIS SECTION

tragi attack in no-fly zone Pag vesterday fired missiles at British and US aircraft Home P2

Move over Generation X... ...the future is Generation O - a younger and more optimistic tribe Home P5

Babies Mother of surviving octuplets left hospital yesterday 'feeling great' Foreign P15

New leader for Israel Front runners got off to an early start in Israel's electoral race Foreign P16

Griffin Trading collapse John Park has been named as the futures trader behind Griffin fiasco Business P18

Spin wizard recalled Australian bowler Shane Warne to play against England Sport P25

NS DEATHER EVIEW

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Lord Howe The euro is born: we need it and should join as soon as possible

Comment P4

It's a tree thing. How British Asians celebrate Christmas Comment P4

> Come the resolutions Forget about your own, says John Walsh. Make them for other people Features P6

Experts give their marks on the Government's policies **Education P7**

Labour's school report

Anthony Quinn Reviews of 'The Acid House', the latest 'Star Trek' and 'Sitcom' Film P9

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TODAY'S TELEVISION PAGE 12

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MARK STEEL VISITS AN ILLEGAL DRINKING CLUB IN SOHO

EARTS THE MAN WHO RUNS EVERY PANTO IN BRITAIN **EPLUS** WHO IS KILLING LIVE MUSIC?

THE BEST WRITING, WEEK IN, WEEK OUT: DEBORAH ROSS, HOWARD JACOBSON, HAMISH MCRAE, ROBERT FISK, TERENCE BLACKER, JOHN WALSH, RICHARD WILLIAMS, DAVID AARONOVITCH, ANNE MCELVOY, THOMAS SUTCLIFFE, MILES KINGTON, SUE ARNOLD, ANDREAS WHITTAM SMITH

Brown misses launch of euro

THE CHANCELLOR, Gordon By STEPHEN CASTLE Brown, will not attend today's in Brussels ministerial meeting to launch the euro, the Treasury said yesterday, adding that the event is purely "procedural".

Instead Britain will be represented by Sir Stephen Wall, its ambassador to the EU, when finance ministers gather

The event will include the announcement of the exchange rates of the 11 currencies taking part in the euro, which begins life tomorrow. Signing of official regulations will be followed by a champagne recep-tion and the release of 3,000

With Britain not taking part in the first wave, the event has been a presentational minefield for the Government. The Chancellor could not expect to enjoy a position centre-stage. but staying away could be interpreted as a lack of commitment to Europe.

In the event, Mr Brown will not be the only prominent absentee. Oskar Lafontaine, the German Finance Minister is on holiday and his place will be set interest rates in the 11 taken by the former businessmen, Werner Müller, an economics minister.

The Treasury believes that the finance minister of at least one of the three other countries

not taking part in the launch will also stay away. All 15 EU finance ministers were invited.

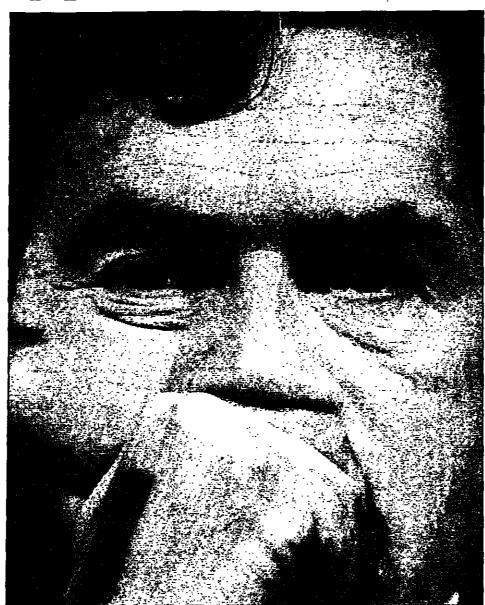
British officials in Brussels also pointed out that Mr Brown suffered a family bereavement before Christmas, making any prospect of his attendance more difficult.

A Treasury spokeswoman said: "This is just a presentational meeting and Sir Stephen Wall will represent the UK. The meeting is not likely to last more than an hour and there will be no decisions affecting Britain or other countries not taking part."

Nevertheless, today's celebrations have been given considerable billing in Brussels, where the arrival of the single currency is seen as a landmark, and Mr Brown's absence will be a disappointment to enthusiasts for British entry.

The European Commission has spent £35,000 to publicise the event when exchange rates will be locked and the power to countries taking part handed over to the European Central Bank, Notes and coins will not be introduced until 2002.

BRITAIN TODAY



Officials are playing down Gordon Brown's absence from today's event in Brussels

Iraq attacks RAF patrol in no-fly zone

IRAQ FIRED missiles at a By Andrew Marshall British aircraft yesterday, emphasising that it wants to step up confrontation with London and Washington after Operation Desert Fox.

The attack happened when RAF Tornadoes based in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia were patrolling the "no-fly" zone over southern Iraq imposed after the Gulf War.

Iraq says both the southern and northern no-fly zones are illegitimate and that it will shoot down aircraft enforcing

United States and British aircraft were patrolling the southern zone at about 8.30am local time yesterday when an Iraqi battery fired between six and eight missiles from a site south-west of Talil, in southern Iraq. Two US F-16 bombers responded and fired two antiradar missiles and a number of precision-guided bombs on

in Washington

involved in the incident returned safely to their bases in the Gulf

Iraq, however, said it had almost certainly shot down a US or British plane over the no-fly zone. "Our brave air defences have fired groundto-air missiles against the formation of hostile planes, forcing them to flee after one of the planes was almost certainly shot down," a military spokesman said.

The Secretary of State for Defence, George Robertson, said the allies would not be "intimidated" from policing the no-fly zones by the Iraqi leader, President Saddam Hussein. "They [the no-fly zones] are humanitarian in purpose and we intend to maintain them," he told BBC Radio 4. "What we are seeing now is a show of defiance, arrogance and essentially of weakness on behalf of Saddam."

The incident was the second this week involving missiles, and follows the attack on US aircraft on Monday in the northern no-fly zone, near Mosul.

The US and Britain hit hard at Iraq's air defences during Operation Desert Fox, a 70-

the time that Iraq's surface-toair missiles were highly mobile and many were missed.

Despite the threat to its aircraft, the US also said the patrols will continue. "This isa key element of our containment policy to prevent Saddam Hussein from using his aircraft to threaten his own people and his neighbours." said a spokesman for the National Security Council. "We :_: will continue to vigorously enforce it and our aircraft will take the necessary precautions to carry out their mission and defend themselves."

Soon after news broke of the clash, President Bill Clinton spoke about Iraq to the Russian President, Boris Yeltsin, Russia has been critical of US policy toward Baghdad but both agreed that despite their differences "it's important to continue to build the US-Russian relationship", the White House said.

But in a sign that the clashes are worrying Iraq's neighbours and America's allies, Turkey said it wanted the issue to be handled delicately. "This is a sensitive situation for Turkey," said the Defence Minister, Ismet Sezgin. The allied air forces depend on bases in Turkey, hour air campaign earlier this Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

Noon today

meral situation: It will be another rather windy day. Most parts of the coun-will have a lot of cloud, although temperatures will be above the average for time of year. Northern Ireland and western Scotland, will be particularly wind

ondon, SE England, E Anglia, E & NE England: A breezy and m lay with light rain and drizzle, especially towards the coast. A fresh rly wind, Max temp 8-10C (46-50F).

Cent S England, Midlands, Cent N England: A few sun but it will be generally cloudy with the odd shower break! casterly wind, Max temp 8-10C (46-50F) Channel Is, SW England, Wales, NW England, Lake Dist, Isle of Man: Mostly cloudy all day and quite windy with rain breaking out by the afternoon. A fresh to strong south-easterly wind. Max temp 6-9C (43-48F).

NW 4 SW Scotland, Glasgow, W Isles: Early sunny spells, but soon arming, some of it heavy. A strong to gale force south-easie temp 6-9C [43-48F]

N Ireland: A evet and very windy day The rain will be heavy at times, but will a will furn more showery later. A strong to gale force south-easterly wind. Max temp 7-9C (45-48F).

OUTLOOK

London: A12 Green Man Roundabout, Leytonstone, Major roadworks on new M11 link road. Until 31st December 1999, Cambridgeshire A10 betwoon Foxton

Bucklung lams need that cattering tractions as (ASS). A 3 (Wycombe East). Three nar-now lanes both ways and a 50 mph speed limid in force, Until 1st January. Bristol: M5 J18-79, Major Roadworks on Avonmouth Bridge, Until 23rd June 2001. Monmouthshire: A449 between Usk A472 and M4 J24, Roadworks, Until 11th January.

Lancashire: M6 Berwoen J27 Standish and J26 Leytard. Roadworks, comtellow and a 50mph speed limit either side of Charnock Richard Services. Until 15th February 1999. Greater Monchester: A57. Narrow lanes Manchester-bound, due to Metrolinik carried ruction work. Until 28th February. mifries and Galloway: A74 between allock and J16 Annandale, Major mad works, until 31st Janua the Call 0336 401777 for

HIGH TIDES

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YESTERDAY

Coldest (day): Castlederg 6C (43F) Westest: Tulloch Bridge 1.00 ins For 24hrs to 2pm Wednesda

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	Sum hrş	Rain in	ر ا	°F
Aberdeen	G	0	7	45
Anglesey	0	0.03	9	4
Avienore	0	0.01	5	4
Beilast	0	0.30	7	4
Birmingham	ο	υ	6	4
Boursemouth	0	0.01	9	4
Bristel	0	0	9	48
Buxton	0	0	5	4
Cardiff	0	0.02	9	41
Clacton	0	0	7	45
Cromer	0	0	6	4
Edinburgh	0	0	- 5	41
Exmouth	0	10.0	10	50
Fishguard	0	0.05	7	45
Folkestone	0	0.02	8	46
Glasgow	0	0.01	6	4
Hastings	0	0.06	9	46
Hove	n/a			
isle-of-man	0	0.18	8	46
isle-of-wight	-	0.04	9	48
Jersey	0	0	9	48
Kendal	0	0.13	6	43
Leeds	0	0	5	41
Lerwick	0	0	6	43
Littlehampton	0	0	9	48
London	0		8	46 49
Lowestoft	0	0	7	
Manchester	Q	0	7	45
Margate Morecambe	0	0.01	7	45
moreçambe Newcastle	0	0.02	5	45
WE HEASTINE		0	,	41

Rain OR SHINE...

A COVEN of witches and wizards will use their magical powers tonight to try and change Moscow's unseasonably mild weather and bring snow. Sorcerers are to gather in Red Square with barrels of ice-cold water which they plan to whack with their

Pupils back

THE WORLD

EUROPE NOON TODAY

THE WORLD YESTERDAY

many of their pupils.

Fewer than half the pupils

inspections

EXPERTS AND teachers may BY JUDITH JUDD doubt whether inspection improves schools, but pupils are more positive. Nearly four out of 10 think

that an inspection improved their school, according to a year-olds. Boys in particular said they learned more in class after the inspection than before. A third of them noticed the difference compared with around a quarter of girls.

Overall, one in five pupils thought the standard of teach ing was better after the inspector called. Nearly seven out of 10 believed that it had stayed the same and only five per cent thought it was worse.

The figures, however. include only those who noticed that their school was being inspected. While teachers and heads report that inspection is one of the most stressful and demoralising experiences of their professional lives, it appears to pass unnoticed by

who responded to Mori's questionnaires were aware that their school had been inspected since they arrived. However, two-thirds of the children in inspection had happened.

Younger pupils were less likely than older ones to have realised the inspectors were in school. However, the aware-Mori survey of 4,000 11- to 16- ness of inspections among pupils is growing. Of those inspected last year, 84 per cent realised that the inspection had taken place.

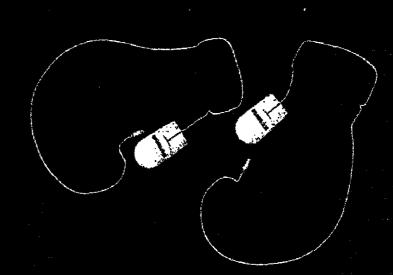
A spokesman for Mori said: Ofsted (Office for Standards in Education inspections appear, on the whole, to have made a positive contribution to standards in schools, according to the views of pupils.

"Although the study did not directly address causality, the clear implication is that there is an association, in some young people's minds, between inspections and changes in teaching and learning. Inspections seem to help boys in particular with their learning, of particular note, given the recent debate about the relative performance of the sexes."

Mori also asked pupils' views about the amount of homework they received. Most, 58 per cent said they were given "about the right amount" but a third said they had too much. middle schools knew the Hardly any thought they were given too little.

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One hand stuck out of snowy waste led rescuers to a miracle in the mountains

BY KIM SENGUPTA AND STEPHEN GOODWIN

THE SIGHT, in the flickering torchlight, of an arm sticking out of the snow was all that helped to prevent what happened at Aonach Mor from turning into a disaster of even greater magnitude.

The rescuers had been facing the seemingly hopeless task of searching miles of snowcovered land in the dark for a lost party of climbers. But now, with frantic digging, they managed to scoop out three people, freezing and in shock after being entombed under 3ft of snow for 16 hours, but alive. Four others, however, were

dead. And vesterday as families of the survivors breathed a sigh of relief and the bereaved mourned, the question of how things could have gone so badly wrong began to be asked.

The climbers were all Kent Venture Scouts, led by Roger Wild, a guide and instructor from Fort William and one of the most experienced mountaineers in the country. The party had gone to Scotland on a winter skills training course.

When the Scouts arrived on Monday at the Lochaber mountains Nevis Range, alongside Ben Nevis, the area was being hattered by a force 9 gale. The Scottish Avalanche Information Service had issued a Category 3 warning, signifying there was the " substantial risk" of an avalanche.

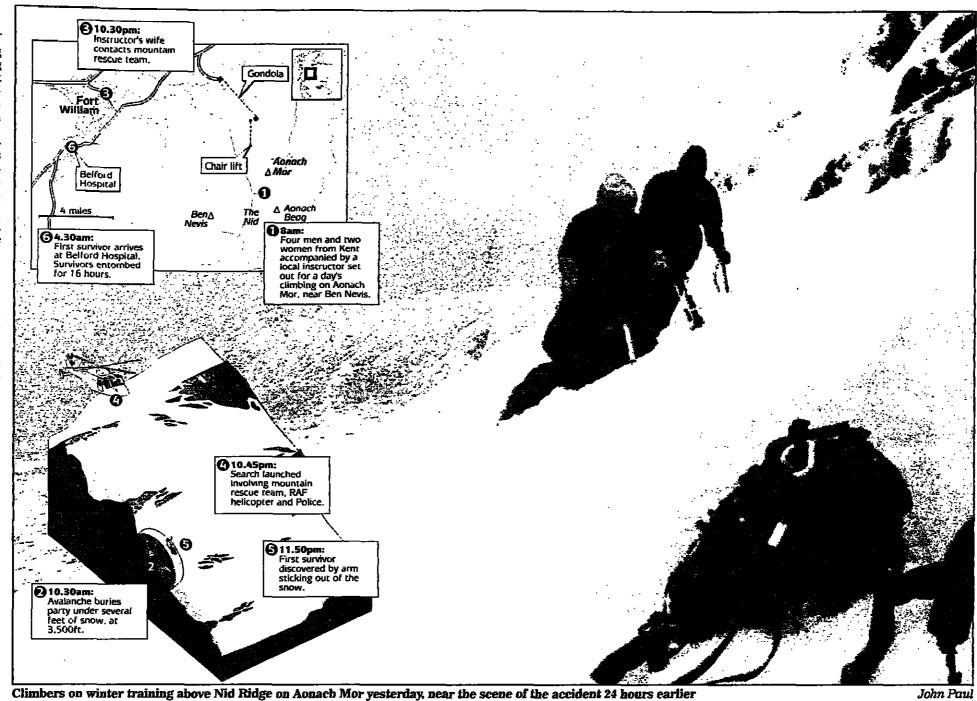
The group was staying on The Fingal, a 128ft barge moored on the Caledonian Canal at Gairlochy, north of Fort William, and were said to be in good spirits.

Early on Tuesday morning Mr Wild, who runs his own climbing school and is a member of the Lochaber mountain rescue team, set off with his party for the 4,006ft peak of Aonach Mor.

Lashed by icy winds they climbed 3,500ft towards their destination. At about 10am, they were hit by the avalanche. The experience must have been terrifying, say mountaineers, with the climbers hearing a roar before being ensculfed by cascading snow and ice with no hope of escape.

They should all have perished. No one can recall anyhaving survived such an avalanche in the Scottish Highiands. The reason some of them did, according to experts, is because they managed to dig airholes in the snow that was covering them.

They may also have used the



procedures emergency climbers are taught for such situations, adopting a swimming motion to help to propel the body upwards.

One of the group, Sarah Finch, later told rescuers that she saved herself by frantically clearing the snow from her mouth and nose as the avalanche hit. Unable to move for an hour, she breathed through her hand which she had clamped over her mouth to prevent choking by the snow.

Mr Wild should have returned home by late Tuesday afternoon. When he failed to do so by 9.30pm his wife, Fiona, contacted the police. They in turn called Terry Confield, leader of the Lochaber moun-

tain rescue team and a friend of her husband.

Mr Wild had left details of his route and itinerary and the team were able to use the gondola ski-lift system of the Nevis Range to get 30 of the rescue party to the site in about an

As well as the Lochaber Yorkshire. The Yorkshire team had been on snow training in the area when they were alerted. A helicopter from RAF

minated an arm and the shape of a body in the snow.

John Stevenson, deputy leader of the rescue party, said: "We then began to dig and found the other people. The avalanche had not swept them apart any great distance.

We could not believe it when three of the people, two team. RAF mountain rescue men and a woman, were still teams came from Kinloss, near alive. Although they were very Fife. and Leeming in North hypothermic, they were still conscious, and one of them deal of effort. It was a relief not I think that this case will all of the people had perished, Lossiemouth also joined the but it is still a terrible tragedy." Mr Confield said it was the

The 60-strong rescue party first time in 35 years of rescue continued for about an hour. work that he had seen anyone Then one of their torches illuescape alive from an avalanche.

Flight Lieutenant Patrick licopter could not be used Thirkell, from RAF Kinloss. said: "In the 18 years that I have been involved in rescues, I have never come across a case avalanche. in which avalanche victims

have survived for a such a long period of time. Usually, if people are not crushed or smothered to death by the force of the hypothermia. tumbling avalanche, the cold and wet will ensure they will freeze to death.

"I honestly thought we change experts' opinions on the survivability of avalanche

The climbers were brought down by the ski-lift gondola after it was decided that the he-

because of the fierce wind and fears that the rotor blades would triggered another The survivors were trans-

حكدًا من الاحل

ferred by ambulance to Belford Hospital at Fort William. None of their injuries was serious, but they were suffering from Consultant surgeon David

Sedewick said: "I would have expected them to have sustained inal injuries. They were in pretty good condition despite being trapped for hours. They are lucky to have survived."

Any investigation into the accident would want to know why Mr Wild chose to go ahead

Wright, co-ordinator of the Scottish Avalanche Information Service, said: "The team leader would have known the risks and the information would have been readily available. A Category 3 warning means that an avalanche is most likely to occur. The reports are available in most hotels, guesthouses, unlikely they would not have

with the expedition despite the

avalanche warning. Blyth

did not normally suffer from avalanches and that Mr Wild was a proficient guide.

Ian Sykes, manager of the Nevis Range Ski Resort, said: really tame these mountains."

DEADLY PEAKS

THE TRAGEDY at Aonach Mar is the worst avalanche incident recorded in Scotland, but it is not the worst disaster to hit the Scottish mountains. In 1972, six teenagers from Edinburgh died after they were caught in a blizzard on a 4,000ft summit plateau of the Caimgorms.

The most dangerous time of the year for climbers and skiers is from mid-December to mid-April, when most avalanches are recorded. The notorious 1994-1995 "season" claimed 12 lives. There have been a total of 48 deaths recorded from avalanches since 1980. More than 200 people have died on the mountains in the past 18

Guides and safety experts have attributed many accidents to inexperienced climbers underestimating the dangers. With its frightening cliffs and swiftly changing weather, Ben Nevis is said to kill more climbers than the Eiger in Switzerland. However, the experts say the Scottish peaks are statistically safer now than a few years ago. "It is accepted that fatalities have been in decline in real terms when the rise in participants is considered." a rescuer

LINUS GREGORIADIS

"Roger is a very careful, sensible bloke. Sometimes accidents really are accidents. Where they were was not particularly steep, I just walked up with my hands in my pockets and there was really no scale of avalanche at all. It seems to have been one of those bloody awful things."

Yesterday cloud shrouded Aonach Mor, lifting intermitpubs, police stations and it is tently to reveal the covering of snow that makes the Scottish dictable nature can be. You can put up ski-lifts, you can do all sorts of things, but you cannot

SNOW AND AVALANCHE REPORT LOCHABER

AVALANCHE HAZARD 1500 HRS TUE 29/12/98 Strong Southerly winds have deposited fresh windstab in sheltered locations with a NW. N and E aspect above 800m. This windslab is weakly bonded especially on steeper slopes. Where this windslab exists in sufficient quantity the avalanch hazard is Considerable (Category 3). All wind scoured snow clopes are generally stable.

sarning notice posted at Lochaber ski centre yesterday

'I keep thinking he'll breeze back home'

avalanche victims told yesterday how she learnt of her son's came back and asked if I had death after seeing a newsflash

on Teletext. Daphne Lewis, mother of Matthew Lewis, said: "As soon as I heard what happened, I rang the police in Scotland and told them who I was and that my son was on a trip. He went away from the phone and then

THE MOTHER of one of the BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

anybody with me and told me it was my son. I keep thinking he'll breeze back home again,

but I know he won't." She added: "I don't hold anything against that instructor. These things happen, I think you just have to accept, sometimes, acts of God and nature."

ence in Dartford, where all the victims and two of the three sur- and he put a lot of effort into victims and two of the three survivors were members of a Scout Fellowship group, Mr Lewis's father, Bill, said: We were not there to make a judgement on whether they should have heeded weather warnings. Until we can control the weather, we can't do much

going. I'm concerned they might have been overkeen on the day."

Mrs Lewis spoke also of the two Scout group members who survived, Sarah Finch, 25, and Steven Newton. "Our thoughts are with Steve and Sarah. They must have been through a

Speaking at a news confer- Matthew was very keen to get alive for 16 hours. They've got rescue member. From what to live with that the rest of their lives, seeing their friends die. They must be in a terrible state. Who knows, they may

never get over that." Emma, said: "All the group were fun-loving and enjoyed life. Their guide, from what we have heard, was very experienced about such a thing as this. dreadful trauma, being buried and he was an expert mountain

were in a safe area. It was just one of those tragic things."

in a statement read on behalf of all the victims' families, the Rev Richard Arding said "We are all very distressed that these young people were so tragically lost while they were living life to the full and doing

what they emoved most.

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Kidnappers 'used Britons as shields'

BY STEVE BOGGAN

THE BRITISH hostages who survived a bungled rescue attempt in Yemen claimed yesterday that government forces started the shooting that led to the deaths of four tourists.

They told how their fellow captives were used as human shields and shot in anger by the kidnappers as Yemeni soldiers stormed their hide-out against British government wishes. Last night, the Foreign Office

asked the Yemeni government to explain why its forces attempted to rescue the 16 hostages - 12 Britons, two Americans and two Australians - in spite of a request by Victor Henderson, the British ambassador, that no rescue attempt should be made. In more than 100 previous kidnappings in Yemen since 1992, no hostages had been killed.

Two of the surviving Britons, Professor Eric Firkins and Mr Brian Smith, recovering at the Movenpick Hotel in Aden, contradicted Yemeni government claims that security forces took had killed two hostages. They no, no'. Miraculously, he [the



Brian Smith: 'We held each other's hands'

said the government forces opened fire first, provoking a two-hour gun battle in which the terrorists used prisoners as human shields before shooting two in "revenge killings" as they

"The worst time for me was that time when a barrel was pointed at my chest. I said, No.

gumman] went away_ the army was just too close," said Professor Firkins, 55, from Croydon, south London. He said a female hostage was subsequently shot in the back of the neck and died in front of him.

The group was kidnapped on Monday when their convoy of five vehicles was halted by 18 Islamic Jihad militants from the Al-Fadl tribe near Mawdiyah, 175 miles south of the capital,

On Tuesday, Mr Henderson met the Interior Minister General Hussein Mohammed Arab. and asked that no violence should be used. Within hours, however, more than 200 soldiers had taken up position and the kidnappers hide-out in al-Wadeaa had been stormed.

Mr Smith, 52, a postal worker from Peterborough, and Professor Firkins said they were in a group of 11 that had been separated from another group of five. They said the kidnappers began killing hostages only after the military opened fire.

Mr Smith said bullets were "whizzing" over their heads. "We were used as human and the army approached and

Eric Firkins: "The worst time was when a barrel was pointed at my chest. I said, "No, no, no." Miraculously, the gunman went away...' proached us and the nearer they got, the more tense the situation in our group became." At one point, the kidnap-

pers told the hostages to stand in open ground with their hands up. "We stood very bravely and even held our hands up." said Mr Smith. "Then we fell back shields," he said. "The army apthere were the two killings.

"My colleagues and I and an-fice spokesman said: "We exother woman fell behind an embankment and we held each others hands until the army got very close to us and we could surrender ourselves.

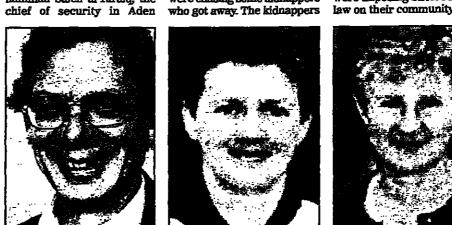
The British ambassador was hoping to meet the Yemeni Prime Minister and the Interior Minister last night to express British concern. A Foreign Of-

tims] deserve to know what happened.' However, Brigadier Mo-

province, said the kidnappers including a fugitive Egyptian pect a response with full details terrorist named as Osama alon what happened from both the Yemeni government and the Masri - were the first to open fire. "The Egyptian [al-Masti] authorities on the ground bebegan shooting at the hostages, which forced our troops to cause the relatives [of the vicstorm the hide-out," he said.

Mr al-Turaig said his forces hammad Saleh al-Turaiq, the were chasing some kidnappers

were said to be in a group of 200 members of Islamic Jihad, based in a camp in south Yemen. They were demanding the release of their leader, Saleh Hadara al-Atwi, who was imprisoned two weeks ago during a crackdown on Islamic fundamentalist vigilantes who were imposing strict religious law on their community.



British victims (from left) Peter Rowe, Ruth Williamson and Margaret Whitehouse

cratic. He loved travel. He teacher at Hook Primary dren's interests foremost in her would have known about the School Margery George, a col-

league, said: "Margaret was a very dedicated, very hard work-

mind. She was very approachto get things across so children

Shot tourist is clinging to life

ONE OF the Yemen kidnap vic- Tuesday. The other victim was tims was critically ill in hospital last night after being told that her husband was one of four hostages killed by Islamic extremists.

Claire Marston, 43, an accountancy lecturer at Northumbria University in Newcastle upon Tyne, was said to be conscious but "in a very bad way" after emergency surgery in Aden. Her husband, Peter Rowe, 60, a popular and "mav-Durham University, was one of

an Australian.

After waking from surgery for a shoulder wound at Al-Jamhouriya hospital, Ms Marston was told her husband was dead. David Pearce, one of the British diplomats looking after the survivors, said she was "with it" and knew her husband was among those who died.

But he added: "She is in a very bad way." He said she and the other injured hostage, an erick" maths lecturer at American woman shot in the pelvis, were "as well as can be three Britons shot dead in a expected. They are awake and

vivors were teachers and academics. The two other dead Britons were named as Ruth Williamson, 34, from Edinburgh, and Margaret Whitehouse, a 52-year-old teacher from Hook, Hampshire.

The other survivors, who were unhurt, were named as Gill Dorey, Patricia Morris, Sue Mattocks, a teacher, Lawrence Whitehouse - a lecturer and the husband of Mrs Whitehouse -Professor Eric Firkins, a chemistry lecturer. David Holmes and Brian Smith, a postal worker. bungled rescue attempt on receiving excellent attention". They were being cared for at the

preparations were made for their return to Britain tomorrow. Colleagues of Dr Rowe spoke

of an unorthodox lecturer who had endeared himself to generations of students with his long hair free spirit and lust for travel. He and Dr Marston had met when she was in one of his tutorial groups and they married shortly after she had finished her studies in the 1970s.

Her brother in law, Stephen Sunnocks, of Seal, Kent, was being kept up to date on her condition by the Foreign Office. be too strong a word but he did Describing her condition as his own thing. He was idiosyn-

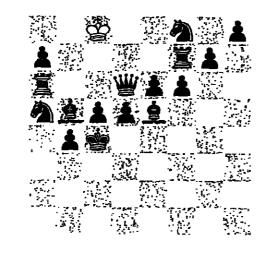
Many of the victims and sur- Movenpick Hotel in Aden while "critical", he said: "She is very strong, very capable. I am sure she will make it." Dr Rowe's colleagues at

Durham described him as a "maverick" with a passion for particle physics. Born in Canada, he moved to Britain in the 1960s. David Fairlie, professor of applied mathematics, said Dr Rowe had spent two years teaching maths in Ghana before joining the university in 1964.

"He had an indomitable sense of adventure," said Professor Fairlie. "Eccentric would

dangers of Yemen, but he had a fatalistic approach to life." Mrs Whitehouse was a ing teacher who had the chil- could understand them."

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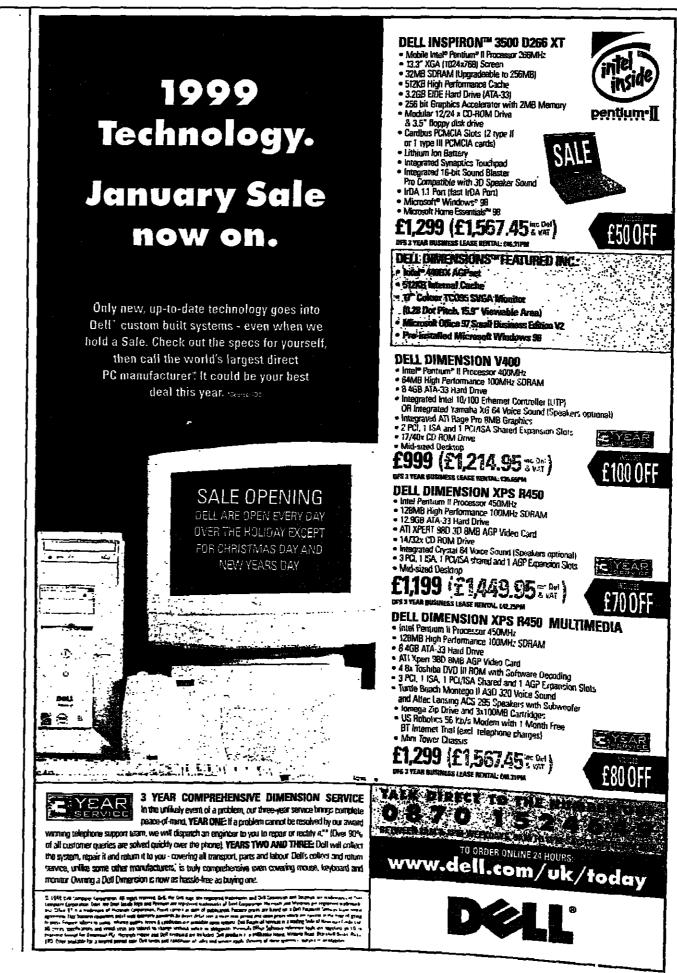
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Children becoming teens 'at age of 10'

GENERATION X, one of the most written and talked about social groups of the Nineties, is fading rapidly into obscurity. The future belongs to Genera-

The emergence of Generation O youngsters - O for rooms, while 43 per cent have optimistic and opportunistic is revealed in research that aims to cast light on some of the most misunderstood creatures of the late 20th century:

decline, children are growing up younger. Enfranchised by information technology, they are more independent and sophisticated than their predecessors and more confident about what they can

Access to information, cultural conditioning through the media and the received wisdom driving forces behind the new generation. As their busy (and increasingly single) - parents spend less time with them, so television, the Internet, maga-

zines and peers are becoming more significant influences. Researchers estimate that

about 60 per cent of children have televisions in their bedaccess to a computer in the home. The idea of a family sitting down to eat together, the research suggests, is redundant. "At best, Sunday lunch now means sitting down with The study by the advertising food on a tray to watch the agency McCann-Erickson, omnibus edition of Eastreveals that, as family units Enders," says Katherine fracture and state institutions Hannah, a senior planner at the

"There is a fundamentally different consumer out there." says Simon Aboud of Magic Hat, a division of McCann-Erickson devoted to understanding teenagers. "They are smart and sassy, but not at all cynical. They are having to be more grown-up. The idea of the nuclear family does not exist, of the playground are the and higher education is like getting a job, as you have to pay your way now. But with the explosion of access to information, they have finally got their hands on the means of production."

The teenagers of the Sixties and Seventies who take the credit for everything, from teenage rebellion, the sexual revolution to ending the Vietnam War. They are less keen to take credit for bad hair cuts and progressive rock.

The Baby Boomer

Generation

Most famously, The White House and 10 Downing Street. Others can be found attending Relate, mid-life crisis counsellors, plastic surgery clinics and Harley Street doctors selling Viagra.

At six years of age, a girl still and boys who are less condreams of being a princess, but by eight she wants to sing and cerned with toys and teddy dance like Billie. At 11, she bears than the fashion and would die for eye contact with style aspirations of older sib-Leonardo DiCaprio or, if he's lings or role models. not handy, then Richard Bran-

"No 11-year-old wants to be 11." says Mr Aboud. "They lished next year, says: "It's a "They genuinely believe they can do whatever they want if want to be older, just like any- disturbing trend. Parental abone who is 30 wants to be sence, the market and the peer younger. The golden age is somewhere between 20 and

> The emergence of tweens has already been noted with similar brand sophistication alarm in the United States, among the 10-12 age-group in including South Park.

resent a generation of girls where some commentators Britain. While children as have talked about the death of childhood as 10-year-old girls are shopping for cosmetics, miniskirts and designer sunglasses. Kay Hymowitz, author of a book on tweens to be pub-

The Punk

Generation

Rising unemployment in the

Eighties created a generation

public school and a lot of the

glue-sniffing took place in the

most of The Clash went to

nice middle-class suburbs.

on national newspapers or

Others are to be found

own Renault Espaces.

Many seem to be columnists

appear on BBC2's Late Review

shopping in Waitrose. They are

marketing directors with their

of disaffected youths. However

late Seventies and early

ment of youngsters." McCann's research reveals

young as seven are aware of Nike and Adidas, tweens understand and act on the credibility ratings of the subbrands - that a pair of Nike Air Max is far more leading-edge than the old-school, low-tech Cortez. They insist on Gap or Top Shop or CK originals rather group form a vicious circle that than Marks & Spencer imitaworks to distort the developtions. With parents less able to

and other post-watershed fare,

حكدًا من الأجل

Generation X

Twentysomethings during the

better than their parents. They

seemed like the first post-wa

careers, partly because they

Working in Waitrose. Living

with their parents. Trying to

stop doing Teaching-English-

TEFL) jobs and get back to

Britain. Working in public

early Nineties recession

generation unlikely to do

had McJobs rather than

looked like Kurt Cobain.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO YESTERDAY'S YOUTH?

The girls swoon over "That's why sportsmen and Leonardo DiCaprio (Titanic women are rated highly. A lot was a massive hit among this age group). The boys - like boys of every age - admire footballers, but in the group research they will spell out very specific reasons for whom they rate: the Italian international striker Alessandro Del Piero for his skill, the Arsenal captain Tony Adams for his reliability police their viewing, they watch and leadership. horror movies such as Scream They have a meritocratic

attitude about whom they admire," says Ms Hannah.



Generation Y

So boring that they are the people best known as the generation after Generation X This gang of would-be over-achievers took soft drugs. worked very hard to get into university and practised serial monogamy.

Millbank. Demos. Parliamentary lobbying companies. Smug bars in as-a-Foreign Language (that is, Notting Hill and Islington although they actually live in either Ladbroke Grove or

The Chemical Generation

The people who took every drug that they could find and then found themselves in an Irvine Welsh short story. Usually characterised by dilated pupils, baggy clothes and the ability to dance for 12 hours

Those not terminally depressed by low seratonin – caused by too much Ecstasy - are buying Versace and Donna Karan and going to expensive clubs in between buying Red magazine and going to garden centres.

of their heroes are self-made.

Even the Spice Girls are like

that - what they like about the

Spice Girls is that they are all

pretty ordinary girls, not that

beautiful, but they have a laugh,

make money and have been a

huge success, and now they

"Richard Branson is also

mentioned by 10 and 11-year-

olds because he generally suc-

ceeds in getting what he

manage themselves.

Important news for Norwich and Peterborough customers.

Important News for Borrowers

- The rate of interest for new and existing mortgage customen in appropriate cases the basic rate) will decrease by 0.5% with effect from 31st December 1998. The Society's standard variable base rate will become 7.45%.
- The new rates continue to reflect the Society's commitment to mutuality and the benefits this brings to customers. Fixed rate mortgages will not be affected during the contractual fixed rate period. There will also be no change to the interest rates for existing Secured Personal Loans regulated by the Consumer Credit Act 1974.
- In cases where morigage interest rate changes are subject to notice, the decrease will take place after the appropriate notice period which will commence on 31st December 1998. For customers participating in the Society's annual review procedure, this interest rate change will be taken into account when calculating new monthly payments at the next review

the mortgage.				_, _
New Rates &				
TYPE OF ACCOUNT	PREVIOUS INTEREST GROSS Spa		NEW AN INTEREST GROSS Super	MUAL RATES NET %pa
SPECIAL 85		_		
85 days' notice				
£100,000 and over	6.22	4.97	5.51	4.40
CARI	6.40	5.09	5.65	4.49
250,000 to £99,999	5.89	4.71	5.18	
CAR.†	6.05		5.30	
£25,000 to £49,999	5.66		4,94	
CA.R.†	5.80		5.05	
£10.000 to £24,999	5.37	4.29	4.65	
C.A.R.†	5 50	4.38	4.75	
£5,000 to £9,999	4.56		3.86	
CARt	4.65	3.71	3.95	
£2,500 to £4,999	4,08	3.26	3.40	
CAR.†	4.15	3.31	3.45	2.75
TESSA SELECT	7.50		7.00	
TESSA ELITE"	7.00		6.60	
TESSA ELITE II	7.50	-	7,00	
ELITE INTEREST ACC	OUNT			
	5.25	4.20	4.75	3,90
POSTMASTER II				
Easy access by post				
£100,000 and over	6.45	5.16	5.95	4.76
C60,000 to C99,999	6.35	5.08	5.85	468
< £30,000 to £59,999	6.25	5.00	5.75	4.60

25,000 to £9,999	5.40	4.32	4.90	3.92
22,500 to £4,999	5.25	4.20	4.75	3.80
POSTMASTER* ONLY				
Rates reflect those sh		•		
or PostMaster II exce				
E1,000 to E4,999	5.25	4.20	4.75	3.80
POSTAL 10 (2nd Issue)			
0 days' notice	•			
100,000 and over	6.55	5.24	6.05	4.B4
Monthly income	6.36	5.08	5.89	4.70
260,000 to 239,999	6 45	5.16	5.95	4.76
Monthly income	8.26	5.00	5.79	4.63
30.000 to £59.999	6.35	5.08	5.85	4.68
Monthly income	6.17	4.93	5.69	4.55
10.000 to £29,999	6.10	4.88	5.60	4 48
Monthly income	5.83	4.74	5.46	4.36
25,000 to £9,999	5.75	4.60	5.25	4.20
Monthly income	5.60	4.48	5.12	4.09
MO180 II γ II COLITIE C2.500 to £4.999	5.35	4.28	4.85	3.88
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OFFSHORE SAVINGS ACCOUNT Operated by post to £100,000 and over 180 000 to £99,995 230,000 to 259,999 210,000 to 229,999

MONTHLY INCOME ACCOUN

	PREVIOUS INTEREST	RATES	NEW ANNUAL INTEREST RATES			
	GROSS	NET	GPIOSS	NET		
TYPE OF ACCOUNT	* pa	ъра	%pa.	∿pa		
HIGH RISE						
Easy access						
£100,000 and over	5.00	4 00	4.25	3,40		
£50,000 to £99,999	4.55	3.64	3.80	3.04		
£25,000 to £49,999	3.80	3.04	3.05	244		
£10,000 to £24,999	2.80	2.24	2.05	1.64		
£5,000 to £9,999	2.60	2.08	1.85	1.48		
£2,500 to £4,998	2.45	1.96	1.70	1.36		
£500 to £2,499	2.15	1.72	1.60	1.28		
£100 to £499	2.05	1.64	1 50	1.20		

Where

are they now?

son will do.

says Mr Aboud.

they work hard enough at it,"

affecting children of all ages,

some of the most marked dif-

ferences are being seen among

those aged 10, 11 and 12, the

pre-adolescent age group re-

ferred to as "tweens". They rep-

Although the changes are

INVESTMENT SHARE	1
Easy access	
The bonus interest rates equi-	etent to those offered on the corresponds
tions of HIGH RISE for belance	es over \$100 will be revised in accordance
with the HIGH RISE rates sho	en above

CANARY ACCOUNT				
All new Canary Accou	nts opened	on or aft	er 23.2.1	998
are subject to a made	nun hve:	denent of	£20,000.	
Easy access			-	
2100,000 and over	5.95	4.76	5.30	4.24
£50,000 to £99,999	5.40	4.32	4.75	3.80
£25,000 to £49,999	4.96	3.96	4.30	3.44
£10,000 to £24,999	4.70	3.76	4.05	3.24
£5,000 to £9,999	4.45	3.56	3.80	3.04
£2,500 to £4,999	3.95	3.16	3.30	2.64
£500 to £2,499	3.40	2.72	275	2.20
Up to £499	2.40	1.92	200	1.60
HEADSTART				
Easy access			5.85	4.68
£25,000 and over	6.40	5.12		
£10,000 to £24,999	6.30	5.04	5.75	4.60
25,000 to 29,999	6.20	4.98	5.65	4.52
£1,000 to £4,999	6.10	4.88	5.55	4.44

CLIENTS' RESERVE BUSINESS EXTRA CHARITY ACCOUNT TREASURER'S TRUST		-		
Easy access				
£100,000 and over	4.80	3.84	4.05	3.24
999,999 ot 000,003	4.60	3.68	3.85	3.08
£25,000 to £49,999	3.65	292	2.90	2.32
£10,000 to £24,999	265	2.12	1.90	1.52
£5,000 to £9,999	2.30	1.84	1.80	1.44
£2,500 to £4,999	2.20	1.76	1.70	1.36
2500 to £2,499	2.10	1.69	1.60	1.28
£100 to £499	2.00	1.60	1.50	1.20
SUPER SAVER (rates include bonus)				
Easy access	8.90	5.52	6.30	5.04
210,000 and over 25,000 to 29,999	6.35	5.08	5.75	4.60
23,000 (0 23,889)	0.00	3.00	3.73	4.00

£1,000 to £4,999	5.60	4.48	5.05	4.04
220 to 2999	5.35	4.28	4.80	3.84
SPECIAL 50*				
25,000 and over	4.10	3.28	3.90	3.12
INVESTMENT PLUS*				
22,500 and over	5.80	4.64	5.05	4.04
AVC*	5.60		5.10	
GROSS NON-RESIDE	ш. 			
210,000 and over	2.80	-	2.05	•
95,000 to 99.999	2.65		1.90	-
£2,000 to £4,999	2.45	-	1.70	-
999 ما 250	2.15	-	1.50	:
NETWASTER SAVER	_			
Operated by Internet		5.60	6.50	5.20
El to E10,000	7.00	2.00	9.30	نهد
NETMASTER BUSINES	SS DEPOS	भा		
Operated by Internet	5.75	4.60	5.25	4.20
200,000	2./3	4.00	3.23	420
BUSINESS GOLD				
£25,000 and over	3.75	3.00	3.25	260
£10,000 to £24,999	3.25	2.60	275	2.20
C5,000 to C9,999	2.50	2.00	200	1.50
£2.500 to £4,999	1.50	1.20	1.50	1.20
£1,000 to £2,499	1.00	0.80	1.00	0.80
GOLD CURRENT ACC	DUNT			
CANAL COLUMNIES				

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'Delia power' enlisted to aid pupils' reading

A GOVERNMENT-FUNDED body BY DAVID LISTER set up to encourage reading has bowed to the might of "Delia power" - the massive influence of TV and film over consumers of everything from eggs to education.

The National Year of Reading is setting aside money to give children free showings of films in the hope that having seen the film they will then read

The quango is giving £5,000 to the charity Film Education to screen films to thousands of during January and February. The move is an implicit acceptance that many children will read a book only if they have seen its screen adaptation.

Films to be screened include Shakespeare in Love, a Stoppard, and an adaptation of Belfast-based Titanic Town, based on the book by Mary Costello and starring Julie Walters, will also be shown.

A fourth free film will not be based on a book at all - the new 1996's Oscar-winning hit film Hollywood movie Pleas- The English Patient, annual

Arts News Editor

antville, starring Joan Allen, is being screened for schoolchildren because it includes scenes set around libraries and reading.

Anita Russell, of Film Eduyesterday. "Adaptations play a key part in education.

'Research shows that chil- Doubtfire and Bobe." dren who are taught literacy using the moving image as well as written text perform at schoolchildren across the UK one-and-a-half National Curriculum levels higher than those who rely on teacher input and the written text

A statement from the National Year of Reading said: "The muscle of the moving new film with a script by Tom image affects us all. 'Delia power' - the new phrase which Shakespeare's Twelfth Night. sums up the power of TV and film over consumers - not only has the power to spark a run on eggs but can increase sales of books by over 300 per cent. For example, following

sales of Herodotus jumped from 12,000 to 50,000 copies.

The residents of Lyme Regis were besieged by the world's tourists when The French Lieutenant's Woman hit cinemas in 1982. "A large majority of the highest grossing films of all time in the UK cation, defended the project are adaptations from books. These include Jurassic Park, Independence Day, Mrs

> Liz Attenborough, project director for the National Year of Reading, added: "The relationship between books and their subsequent TV or film adaptations show a healthy cross-fertilisation between ewers and readers. "Many successful adapta-

tions encourage new readers to turn to the original novel, and encourage reading of other books by the same author." Books currently being adapted into films include The Beach by Alex Garland, Dead Babies by Martin Amis, The Well of Loneliness by Radclyffe Hall, The Spire by William Golding and The Golden Bowl by Henry James.

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CJD fears put watchdog under strain

AN INCREASE in the number of BY STEVE CONNOR people suspected of suffering from Creutzfeldt Jakob disease is straining the national surveillance system for the human version of "mad cow" disease.

Bob Will, head of the National CJD Surveillance Unit in Edinburgh, has consulted the Department of Health about the need to increase the unit's resources to cope with the extra workload.

Dr Will, a clinical neurologist. said the past few months had seen a higher number of people being referred to the unit by doctors concerned that their patients were suffering from CJD, some of whom may be suffering from the human form of bovine spongiform encephalopathy

The unit, which was set up in 1990, was designed to cope with a maximum of 150 referrals a year. However, if present trends continue, the unit will have to deal with up to 200 referrals in 1999.

"If it gets higher than 150 referrals we will need extra staff and if it gets higher again we'd have to consider the way the whole system works," Dr Will said. He has resigned from the government's Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory
Committee, on which he has served since 1990, to concentrate on the surveillance

Drogramme. There have been 34 deaths Science Editor

from new variant CJD - human BSE - and scientists have not seen a significant increase in cases to indicate an epidemic. However, the first indication of an epidemic would be an increase in referrals to the unit.

"It's significant in terms of the workload. In terms of meaning something in relation to CJD I think that is impossible to say," Dr Will said.

"We have been quite husy in the past few months but I don't think you can conclude that means something definite epidemiologically at the moment."

For every five patients with suspected new variant CJD, only one proves definitely to have it - cases are usually confirmed by post-mortem tests on the patient's brain.

We've had a few more referrals than our previous experience in the past few months," Dr Will said. He added that the unit looks particularly carefully at suspected cases of CJD in the under-50s, who are at greater risk of the new variant of the disease.

Scientists believe it is too early to say whether there will be an epidemic of "human BSE" because of the uncertainty over both the time it takes for the disease to incubate and the amount of infected material that entered the human food chain.

IN BRIEF

Man held over mummified body

A MAN aged 61 was arrested by Suffolk police yesterday after the discovery in a field near Woodbridge of the body of Steven Burt, 25, who had been missing for several years. A post-mortem examination found that the body had "mummified" after being left in a dry, draughty place. Police carried out a search yesterday of a house in Woodbridge.

Teachers 'spend £5m on books' TEACHERS HAVE personally spent 25m to aid the

Government's literacy hour drive to raise reading standards, it was claimed. A survey by the Association of Teachers and Lecturers found that more than half of staff in primary schools had each spent an average £25.80. Ministers insist the £113m programme is fully funded.

Showjumper killed by falling tree AN INTERNATIONAL showjumper was killed by a falling

tree as he drove to a beauty spot to propose to his girifriend. Michael Joyce. 26. and Samantha Smith, 20, were caught in a violent storm en route to a waterfall near Connemara in Co Galway. Ireland, on Boxing Day.

Ferry users' details go on record

NEW RULES on ferry passenger information - first called for after the 1987 Zeebrugge disaster - finally come into force tomorrow. From 1 January, details of the name, age and sex of all passengers on board ships will have to be recorded for search and rescue purposes.

Bumper millennium lottery draw

CAMELOT. the National Lottery operator, said yesterday it is to hold a £250m millennium draw on 31 December next year, which will create the opportunity for a number of winners to become millionaires.







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Maps mark line that divides England

Environment Correspondent

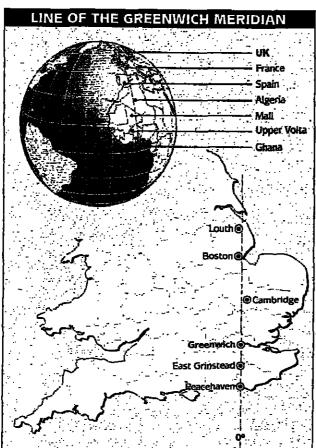
THE ENTIRE route of the Greenwich meridian through Britain, from East Sussex to East Yorkshire, is to be marked for the millennium on a new series of Ordnance Survey maps.

It will be the first time the prime meridian of longitude – zero degrees east and west - has been specially shown on Britain's principal maps and will, the Ordnance Survey says, allow people to celebrate the precise places where time changes at midnight on 31 December 1999 at any point along the line.

The decision is announced today - exactly one year from Millennium Eve. Seventeen maps in the highly detailed new "Explorer" series will track the line through towns and villages across the countryside.

It runs north from the Channel coast at Peacehaven, shaving Lewes and East Grinstead in Sussex before heading through the suburbs of south London to the Royal Observatory at Greenwich where the meridian was first calculated in 1851.

A brass line at the site marks the division between the eastern and western hemispheres and is a popular place for people to be photographed with one foot in each. It is also the new millennium's official Green-



The meridian continues north through Leyton and the Fens and running up Walthamstow in north-east London to Waltham Abbey in Essex. Then it passes the east-

through Lincolnshire, just missing Boston and Louth.

It crosses the Humber esern edge of Royston in Hert- tuary and the Holderness peninsula before heading out and will cost £5.50. The first, of

North Pole, touching no more

The new, highly detailed maps are at the scale of 1:25,000 (4cm to 1km or 2.5in to the mile)

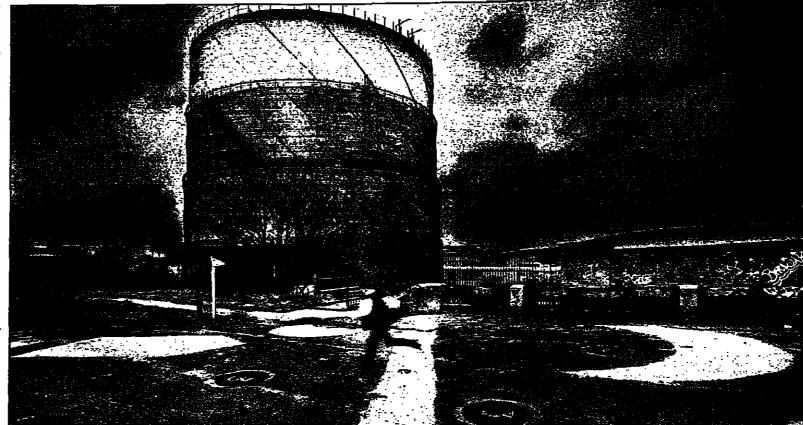
area, will go on sale next month to track the route of the time line and the rest will be published on our maps," said Paul in stages by the summer. They will show the meridian as a

Franklin, Ordnance Survey's publishing manager. "That's be-

ebrations both in the build-up to the millennium and on the big

cause many people want to know Only six other countries bewhether their village, street or sides England are host to the

so they can arrange special cel-down through France and eastern Spain, across the Mediterranean and then through four nations in Africa – Algeria, Mali, Upper Volta and Ghana - before



A footpath dissected by a moon and a rocket shows the line of the Greenwich meridian through Stratford in east London nears, we've had many requests even school is on or near the line Greenwich meridian. It runs of Cambridge before crossing into the North Sea and up to the the Greenwich and Gravesend

C&G Investment Rates

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£2,500 - £9,999	Annually	6.30	6.30	5.04	5.80	5.80	4.64	£10,000 - £24,999	Annually	6.25	6.25	5.00	5.65	5.65	4.52
£25,000 or more	Monthly	6.31	6.50	5.05	5.84	6.00	4.67	£100 - £9,999	Annually	5.45	5.45	4.36	5.00	5.00	4.00
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Today gets an extra second so we don't fall behind the times

BIG BEN sets its pendulum to By SARAH WILSON it, ships' captains swear by it and the speaking clock could not function without it. But despite its worldwide reputation for timeless precision, Greenwich Mean Time is lagging be-

hind the scientific standard. To make up for this discrepancy, New Year's Eve will last one second longer. Scientists will be inserting a "leap second" to recalibrate our time-keeping to chime with the ruthlessly precise international standard, Coordinated Universal Time (abbreviated in all languages to

Because GMT relies on the ular vibration of this atom onds in the last minute of the monitoring Big Ben in case

the Sun to measure its accuracy, it is vulnerable to natural variations. The Moon, which creates tidal fluctuations, slows the Earth's spin by pulling at the oceans. The molten metal sloshing around in the Earth's

core also holds up its rotation. Seeking a more consistently accurate measure of when things were happening, scientists developed the atomic clock in the 1950s. It relies on the vibrations of the atoms of the metal caesium for its measure. Nine billion periods of a partic-

ble to man-made machinery.

Kristen Lippencott, director of the Royal Observatory at Greenwich, said: "GMT has become a catch-phrase for accurate time, like Hoover is for vacuum cleaners."

In 1972, UTC was officially adopted by the scientific community, but few people are aware of the difference between it and GMT. "Airline pilots will quote times in GMT even if they are measured in UTC." said Dr Lippencott.

Tonight there will be 61 secposition of the Earth vis-a-vis makes up an atomic clock sec- year and the familiar six pips

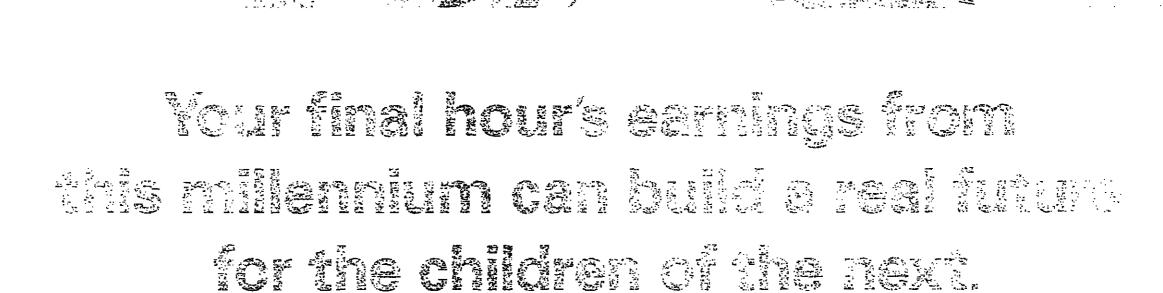
ond. Any variation in these radio time signal will gain an vibrations is so far impercepti- extra pip before the long pip marking the hour.

There will be no extra bong from Big Ben, however. Its pendulum is only ever accurate to plus or minus one second. Since the clock was first fitted in 1859, engineers have been using old pennies to change the pendulum's centre of gravity and gently slow it when it gets too fast, explained Michael Mc-Cann, the keeper of the clock. He will be out celebrating when the clock chimes tonight. But two clock engineers, John Tricki and Brian Tipper, will be

anything does go wrong.



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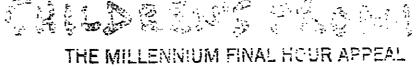
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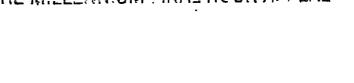
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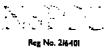












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ernment in a fresh attempt to keep politicians in touch with

the youth of the day. Under plans to be put before ministers next year a Representation of Young People Bill would allow the UK's 1.5 million 16 and 17-year-olds to vote in general and local elections

Advocates of the change said vesterday it was simply "absurd" that the law allowed youngsters to pay tax, have sex, get married and fight for their country but denied them the franchise

Magali Delporte

The cross-party move follows a new study that shows

terested in politics than commonly assumed, even though many are disillusioned with the main parties.

Labour backers of the idea believe it could restore muchneeded idealism to the Government's battered image and confirm Tony Blair's reputation as a ground-breaking premier.

The last lowering of the vot- youth," he said. ing age, from 21 to 18, was enacted by Harold Wilson's Labour government in 1969.

A Home Office working party on electoral law will be presented with the proposals next summer once it has concluded its current consultation on electronic voting and polling sta-

tions in supermarkets. Labour won the last general election with the help of a large lead among young voters and party officials believe the age change could help it to hold on to scores of key marginal

Pressure to extend the franchise age follows research by Loughborough and Nottingham Trent Universities into the attitudes of under-19s.

The study, backed by the Labour-supporting Fabian Society, found that more than 81 per cent discussed politics with family or friends and three-quarters thought it was important to vote in national elections.

The survey, which polled 5,000 teenagers to make it the biggest of its kind conducted, found that just 5 per cent thought voting was a "waste of time". Tackling poverty was their top political priority, fol-lowed by help for the Third

Dominic Wring, one of the study's authors, said the research had uncovered evidence. that teenagers exhibited an "engaged cynicism" about politics. They were disillusioned. but wanted a greater say.

"Tony Blair, like no prime minister since Harold Wilson, has talked of a 'young country' whilst cultivating and listening to celebrities popular with

"Fundamentally something more imaginative and concrete is required to sustain and nurture democratic participation among the young. A progressive administration would adopt this."

Although Labour stands most to gain from an expanded youth vote, the Tories and the Liberal Democrats believe under-18s could reap them electoral dividends.

Policies such as the lower minimum wage rate and benefit restrictions for the under 18s, as well as rising unemployment, could lead to a backlash against Labour, they say.

Lembit Opik, MP for Montgomeryshire and the Liberal Democrats' Youth Affairs spokesman, said his party was the only one formally committed to lowering the voting

"The simple fact is that people under 18 feel that they are prejudiced against in grounds of age. They pay tax, can have sex and die for their country, but they can't vote. It's a classic case of taxation without representation.

"The onus is on those who want to keep the voting age at 18 to prove why they are right. not on those who want change."

LEGAL RITES OF PASSAGE

At age 13: Allowed to get a

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Age 14: Allowed to go into a pub; own an air rifle and its ammunition; be employed on a weekday as a street trader by your parents (subject to

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Age 16:

Allowed to leave school: Get married with parental consent (without consent in Scotland); buy tobacco; Consent to heterosexual intercourse (girls); join the armed forces with parental consent (boys): drive an invalid carriage or moped: Drink beer or cider with a meal in a restaurant; buy lottery tickets and scratchcards; buy liqueur chocolates: enter or live in a brothel; become a street trader.

Age 17:

Can be interviewed by the police without "an appro-Join the armed forces with parental consent (girls); Hold a licence to drive most vehicles.

Age 18:

Allowed to vote; serve on a jury: buy and drink alcohol in a bar; consent to a "homosexual act" with another man in private; get married without parental consent; own land and apply for a mortgage; enter a betting shop and place a bet; get a tattoo: give your body to science; buy fireworks.

Age 21:

Become an MP; hold a licence to drive a large passenger vehicle or heavy goods vehicle; apply for a licence to sell alcohol; adopt a child.

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Trees threatened by Asian beetle

THE GOVERNMENT is taking BY STEPHEN VINES action to prevent the spread of the Asian longhorn beetle which poses a lethal threat to hardwood trees, such as sycamore, horse chestnut, willow and poplar.

The threat emerged after the beetle was found in wooden packing cases containing Chinese imports. Sightings have been reported in various parts of England and Wales but the Forestry Commission believes that the beetles have yet to spread to trees.

To prevent this happening import controls have been imposed on wooden packing material entering Britain from China. The insect will be included on a list of prohibited pests - and wood packaging, which carries the bulk of Chinese exports to Britain, will have to be both bark and grubhole free. China will be given until 15 February to comply with the new rules,

Roddie Burgess, head of Forestry Commission's plant health service, said: "We know that the beetle would survive in most of the country, and that it would cause economic damage, not just to our forests in Hong Kong



Asian longhorn beetle: Infestation kills trees fast

and woodlands but also, possibly to fruit-growers."

The problem with the Asian longhorn beetle - Anoplophora glabripebbis - is that once it becomes embedded in trees it kills them very fast. There is no known antidote and the spread of the beetle can only be achieved by felling trees.

The beetle is about an inch long (2.5cm) and has a shiny black covering. Its most distinctive feature is its long horn-shaped feelers, which are black with white rings. The United States has already imposed a rigorous

exclusion regime.



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Old singing stars set a Sixties note

THE ARTS

THE SIXTIES reverberated By DAVID LISTER through the honours list as the singers Dusty Springfield and Tom Jones were joined by the artist Bridget Riley.

Dusty Springfield's OBE will prove highly popular. The 59year-old singer, best remembered for her husky as George III in The Madness voice, kitsch blonde image and heavy black eye make-up, is seriously ill with breast cancer She issued a statement saying: 'I'm deeply and genuinely honoured This is the biggest surprise of my life."

By contrast, a very contemporary performer to be honoured is the young actor Robert Carlyle. One of the stars of The Full Monty and Trainspoting, he is appointed OBE. But he biggest award to the acting profession is a knighthood for

Arts News Editor

Nigel Hawthorne, best known as the supremely suave and cunning civil servant in Yes Minister and Yes, Prime Minister and, on stage and screen, of King George.

Andrew Davis, who has become a familiar figure on television, conducting the Last Night of the Proms, also receives a knighthood.

The world of the visual arts sees two of its best-known ambassadors honoured. There is a knighthood for Nicholas Serota, director of the Tate Gallery, and chairman of the Turner Prize judges, while the veteran artist Bridget Riley becomes a Companion of Hon-

our Since the Sixties, she has dazzled the world with her flickering and shimmering images. Riley has been described as "an abstract painter in the grand tradition".

Duncan Kenworthy, who produced the box office sell-out Four Weddings and a Funeral, is appointed OBE, as are two veteran pop heart-throbs, Tom Jones and David Essex. Roger Moore, 71, who has starred as The Saint and James Bond, is appointed CBE - not for services to acting, but in the diplomatic list for his work on behalf of Unicef.

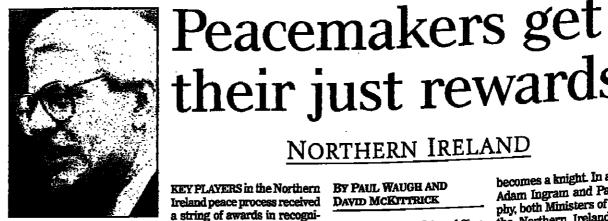
The comedian Lenny Henry, described by his wife, the actress Dawn French, as "loud and revolting", is appointed CBE for services to comedy, drama and Comic Relief.

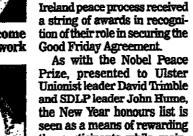


Gen John de Chastelain (left) and John Major become Companions of Honour for Northern Ireland peace work



The singer Dusty Springfield (left) is appointed OBE and the actor Nigel Hawthorne is knighted





seen as a means of rewarding the participants while maintaining the momentum of the process. As well as recognising big players such as John Major, General John de Chastelain and Senator George Mitchell, the list honours many of the little-known figures who have also played their part.

Quentin Thomas, who is knighted, was political director of the Northern Ireland Office and the government's chief

KEY PLAYERS in the Northern By Paul Waugh AND DAVID MCKITTRICK

their just rewards

NORTHERN IRELAND

contact with the IRA and Sinn Fein during the Nineties. Mr Thomas met senior republicans in conditions of strict secrecy prior to the IRA's 1994 ceasefire. He later continued this role in a more public fashion, frequently meeting Sinn Fein figures such as Martin McGuinness.

John Holmes, who was until recently the Prime Minister's Principal Private Secretary. and was almost Mr Blair's shadow in the crucial last days of the Easter talks, is appointed a Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire.

Reginald Empey, a former Unionist Lord Mayor of Belfast. who ws appointed OBE in 1993.

becomes a knight. In addition, Adam Ingram and Paul Murphy, both Ministers of State at the Northern Ireland Office, become Privy Counsellors.

It is understood that senior SDLP figures were offered honours but rejected them as part of the party's policy of nonacceptance. SDLP councillors who have been appointed MBE in recent years have been forced to leave the party.

The list also recognises those who coped with the Omagh bomb. John McKinney, the chief executive of Omagh council, and Clive Russell, the leader of the medical emergency team, are appointed OBE. Phillip Marshall, a police sergeant who directed operations at the scene, is appointed

The Prime Minister's List

LIFE PEERS

Imbert, Sir Peter Michael, QPM, JP H.M. Lord-Lt of Greater Lonion; commr, Met Pol, 1987-93. D'Neill, Miss Onora Sylvia, CBE, Principal, Newnham College,

Patel, Sir Naren, Consultant Distetrician, Ninewells Hospital Dundee; Itly pres. R College of Distetricians and Gynaecologists and past chm, Academy of Viedical R Colleges. Trotman, Sir Alexander, Lately

hm and Ch exec Offr, Ford Motor Company. Williamson, Sir David Francis, CMG, CB, Formerly sec-Gen of he European Commn.

COMPANIONS OF HONOUR

Viajor, The Right Honourable John, MP, Member of Parlia-nent for Huntingdon. Prime viinr and First Lord of the Treas .990-97. For services to peace in Vorthern Ireland tiley, Miss Bridget Louise, CBE, urtist. For services to Art.

PRIVY COUNSELLORS

ngram, Adam Paterson, JP, MP. tilbride. Minr of State, Northern reland Office. ampbell. Walter Menzies, BE. QC, MP, Member of Pariament for Fife North East. furphy, Paul Peter, MP, Memer of Parliament for Torfaen.

Jinr of State, Northern Ireland

KNIGHTS BACHELOR

Slank, Maurice Victor, Dep chm, reat Universal Stores and chm, Airror Group. Chisholm, John Alexander Raynond, Chief exec, Defence Evalation and Research Agency,

Davies, David John, Lately chm, dvisory Committee on Business .nd the Environment. For leadng Business in abating Air Pol-Davis, Andrew Frank CBE

onductor For serv Music.)ummett, Prof Michael Anthony lardley, Emeritus Prof of Logic, exford University. For serv Phi-sophy and to Racial Justice. impey, Reginald Norman Moran, OBE, Member, Belfast City 'cl. For polit and publ serv. lanagan, Ronald, OBE, Ch onst. R Ulster Constabulary. or serv to the Police. libson, Ian, CBE, Vice pres, Nisl an Europe and Ch exec, Nissan (lotor Manufacturing Ltd. For erv the Car Manufacturing ind. iray, Prof Denis John Pereira, BE, Gen Medical Practitioner

nd pres. R College of Gen Prac-I itioners. For serv Quality and c tandards in Gen Practice. Juinness. John Ralph Sidney B. chm. Brit Nuclear Fuels plc. or serv the Nuclear ind. fawthorne, Nigel Barnard,

BE, Actor For serv the 'heatre, Film and Television. 🕇 ones, Lyndon, Principal and Ch I xec, Harris City Technology h college, Croydon, Surrey. For erv Educ.

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S iroup Ch exec, R Bank of Scot-H und Group plc. For serv Ecoomic Development and to anking.

K IcLintock, Charles Alan, For C 2rv the Church of Eng. F. ervez, Mohammed Anwar, BE, chm, Bestway Ltd. For erv the Food Retail and Wholeale Sector and for charitable

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erota, Nicholas Andrew, Dir, Tate allery. For serv the Visual Arts.

Shand, James, MBE, Accordionist and Scottish Country Band Leader For serv Scottish Culture. Smith, Prof Eric Brian, For serv

Academic/Business Partnership and to Higher Educ. Smith, Graham William, CBE, Her Majesty's chinsp of Proba-tion. For serv the Probation Ser-

Soulsby, Peter Alfred, Leader, Leicester City Ccl. For serv Leicester and to Local Govt_ Thomas, Quentin Jeremy. CB. For serv Peace in Northern Ire-

Walker, John Ernest, FRS, For serv Molecular Biology. Kemp-Welch, John, chm, London Stock Exchange. For serv Fi-nancial Regulation and to Financial Services.

Williams, Francis Owen Garbett, CBE, chm and mgg dir, Williams Grand Prix Engineering Ltd. For serv the Motor Sport ind. Williams. John Kyffin, OBE, DL, For serv the Visual Arts in

Winkley, David Ross, Dir. National Primary Trust. For serv Primary Educ. Woo, Po-Shing, For charitable serv the Arts.

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Knight Grand Cross (GCB) Wicks, Sir Nigel Leonard, KCB, CVO, CBE, Second perm sec, H.M. Treas.

Knight Commander (KCB) Mountfield, Robin, CB, Permanent sec, Cabinet Office. Scholar, Michael Charles, CB, Companion (CB)

Blythe, Mark Andrew, Legal Adviser, H.M. Treas. Duff, Graham, Lately dir, Casework Services, Crown Prosecution Service. Fisk, David John, Chief Scientist and dir, Environment Internat, Dept of Env. Transport and the Regions. Gordon, Mrs Vera Kathleen, Head, Agricultural Crops and Commodities Dirate, Min of Agric, Fisheries and Food. Grover, Derek James Langlands, Dir, Skills and Lifelong Learning, Dept for Educ and Employment, Harbison, Jeremy John Moore, For publ serv. Hartnack, Paul Richard Samuel, Comptroller Gen, Patent Office, Dept of Trade and Indust. Hastings, Alfred James, Clerk of the Journals, House of Commons. McKenzie, Michael, QC, Master of the Crown Office and Queen's Coroner and Attorney, Regis-trar of Criminal Appeals and of the Courts-Martial Appeal Court. Lord Chancellor's Dept. Sawyer. Anthony Charles, Dir, Operations Prevention, H.M. Board of Customs and Excise. Scaife, Geoffrey Richard, Chief exec. NHS in Scotland.

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Knight Commander (KBE) Holmes, John Eaton, CMG, CVO, Principal private sec to the Prime Minr. For serv peace in Northern Ireland.

Commander (CBE) Andrew Robio, SCS, MOD. Andrews, Miss Carol, Detective Sergeant, Met Pol. Bagnail, Peter Hill, DL., For serv the commity in Oof. Barlon, Mrs. Nuriel Mary, Leader, North East Lincolnshire Cd. For serv the commity in Grimsby and North East Lincohnshire, Bernes, Robert, Lutely dit, Social Sur-veys Division, Office for National Statistics. Bar-rens, Faul Staart, Sen vice pres, ALSTOM Gas-Turbines Lid, For serv the Gas Turbines ind. Bradley, Patrick Alphonsus, ORE, For serv the Electrical Process, Brandish, Cayton Meris, chan, Adm joi: For serv the Information Technology Ind. and In the Changes and The Division of Association

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Gillimson, Clive Daniel, mgg dh; London Symphony Orchestra. For our Music. Gournay, Prof. Revin Joseph Michael, For serv Psychiatric Nunsing, Research and Educ. Harwood. Rouald, Playing.

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Nicholas Turpin

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=NEW YEAR HONOURS=

Accolade for the corner shop king

BUSINESS

CLARE SPOTTISWOODE, former director of Ofgas, the industry regulator, is appointed CBE for services to the gas industry and its consumers.

Sir Alex Trotman is created a peer to mark his retirement as chairman, president and chief executive of Ford Motor Company, which he joined as a student trainee in 1955. He was born in Middlesex, served for four years in the Royal Air Force and took his degree at Michigan State University in America. He is also a director of ICI and the New York Stock

Exchange. Victor Blank, awarded a knighthood, has been deputy chairman of GUS since 1996 and became non-executive chairman of Mirror Group ear-

By CLIFFORD GERMAN

partner of City bankers Charterhouse in 1969 and master-minded the buy-out of Woolworth from its American

George Mathewson, also knighted, was chief executive of nior partner in 1980. the Scottish Development Agency from 1981 to 1987 before joining the Royal Bank of Scotland. The SDA was credited with attracting US computer companies to invest in "silicon glen" and rebuild the Scottish economy at a time when its basic industries - steel, coal and shipbuilding - were in steep decline. Since he became chief executive of the RBS in 1992 its profits have risen from £20m to £1bn and it has successfuly diversified into financial services.

John Kemp-Welch is made a knight. He has been chairman of the London Stock Exchange since July 1994. His career began in the City with private bankers Hoare & Co in 1954, moved to stockbrokers Cazenove in 1958 and became joint se-

Mohammed Pervez, who is knighted in the New Year honours, was born in Pakistan and opened his first corner shop in 1963. He is the founder and chairman of Bestway, now the second biggest cash and carry group in the UK and a chain of convenience stores. Part of Bestway's profits go to the Bestway Foundation, which provides equipment for schools in needy areas and sponsors foreign students to study in



Clare Spottiswoode, Ofgas ex-director, is honoured



Both the boxer Prince Naseem Hamed (left) and Brendan Ingle, his former manager, have been appointed MBE



The Grand Prix team chief Frank Williams is knighted





Racing team leader wins a knighthood

SPORT

Villeneuve.

FRANK WILLIAMS, the wheelchair-bound head of the Williams Formula One racing empire, could be forgiven for thinking the timing is out.

His knighthood in the New Year honours list comes after one of his least successful seasons since founding Williams Grand Prix Engineering Ltd in 1977. For once, Sir Frank, 58, failed to win a Grand Prix and finished only third in the constructors' championship during 1998.

But although it may have come late, it is a deserved reward for a determined man who has achieved more success in his sport than any other during the 1990s. His team has won nine constructors' titles, more than any other, and seven drivers' world championships -

BY NICK RIPPINGTON the last in 1997 by Jacques

Sir Frank, a former driver, founded his first team at 22 but struggled to keep his dream alive. In the late 1970s he was forced to sell personal effects to pay staff, and it was only with his first Grand Prix win, in 1979, that things began to turn around. A road accident in Monte Carlo in 1986 left him confined to a wheelchair.

Both the outspoken Prince Naseem Hamed and Brendan Ingle, the trainer he parted company with this year after a bout of verbal fisticuffs, were appointed MBE.

Boxing Organisation's featherweight champion, was hon- er players of his generation,

oured for his record of 31 wins in 31 fights, including 28 knockouts, while Mr Ingle's award was for services to disadvantaged young people and to

boxing. Services above and beyond the call of duty could be the inscription on the insignia of the MBE of the England cricketer Angus Fraser. He took 54 Test wickets this year and helped to beat South Africa as England achieved their first five-Test

series victory in 12 years. Others to be appointed MBE include the former England football captain Stuart Pearce. who plays for Newcastle United; Trevor Brooking, the pundit and former England player: Prince Naseem, the World and Jimmy White, regarded as one of the most popular snook-

lier this year. He became a Suffalk, Porman, Anharry Ernest, For serv the commty in Worknecham, Suffalk, Forstee, Mrs. Shirkey Edwards, Administrative (Iff. MOD. Plaster, Two Ess Driver, Taylors, Couches, Forserver, Public Transport in West, Vorlachire, Prancia, Curcia Allieter Allan, Por serv roammy Relations in Croydon, Survey Fraser, Angus, Rubert Charles, Por serv Public Transport in West, Workshire, Prancia, Curcia Allieter Allan, Por serv commy Relations in Croydon, Survey Fraser, Angus, Rubert Charles, Por serv Cricket, Procedura, Mrs. Sandra, Por serv the Frainties of Sufferers of Creatafield, Jacob Disector, Gamble, Samuel, School Carvetaber, For serv Educ Gardines, Christopher James, Drosson Hoff, Hampshire Spectal Constabulary: For serv the Pholoc, Garner, Mrs. Russland Mangaret, Administrative Offic DSS, Cary, Christopher Coulsting, Forser the commy in Camerbury, Geest, Mrs. Lucille van, For chambale serv in Lincohn-hier, For core the commy in Camerbury, Geest, Mrs. Lucille van, For chambale serv in Lincohn-hier, For serv the commy in Buchinghmshire, Gibbana, Mrs. Alian, For serv the Camerbury in Grinsky, Hereford and Worrester Gibbas, Arthur John, Lutley Train Driver, Thamesfink, For serv the Raffung ind and to the set of Raffung Worless, Gibbs, Mrs. Joan, Forser the continuty in Bianciesfield, Chestitra, Gibson, Mrs. Kairme, Mary, For serv the Engreening and Physical Sciences Research Cel and to the Multiple Sciences and Markets, John, Press, Por serv the St. Loyes College Foundation, Exister and to Deshield People, Glasser, John, Press, Amirada in Distress. For serv a virus Mellare, Gibewell, Mrs. Phylis, For serv the War Widows Association, Good-child, Miss, Dorna, Ann. Per serv Huber, Mayorasse, Lowes College Foundation, Exister and to Deshied People, Glasser, John, Press, Amirada in Distress. For serv a virus Mellare, Gibewell, Mrs. Joyce, Sci. Cond. Geres, College Foundation, Exister and to Beacher Goodman, Mrs. Barb

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Resident. Association. For serv the commy on the
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Rajab Langston. Vice press. Camping and Caravanning Chib. For serv Camping and Caravanning Chib. Fo

Devon. Lydford, Adum, Higher Professional and Technology (Off. MOD.). MacArthur, Iain. For serv the commity in Carloway, Isle of Lewis. MacKars, Chories Eric. CITES Team Leader, H.M. Board of Lossoms and Exise. Mackennie. Malcolm. Revervoir Engineer, West of Scotland Water Authority. For serv the Water and, MacLeod, Even. Stockman, Dalamly Anction Mart. For serv the Crotting communities in Angyll and the Islands. MacLeod, William Alexander. For serv the R Brit Legon Scotland. Magowan, John Alfred, QCM, For serv the Police. Maik. Molsammed Brunt, chen. Pendle Pakistan Welfare Association. For serv commer Relations Relations Relations relations are served to the Police. Welfare Association. For serv commty Relations to Pendie and Burnley, Lancasthre, Malitaness, Alan John, For serv the Careers Research Advisory Cel and to Business and Treining in Cambshire, Marshall, Gordon Hendry, For serv the commty in Spennymoor, Cnip Durbam. Marshall, Mirs Mary Veginia Elizabeth, For serv the commit, especity Elderly People, in Chippenham, Wilshme, Marshall, Philip, For serv the Police, Martin, John Thomas, Assistant Fremast, Strathchyle Fire Brigade. Re-serv the Fre-Service Martin, Mrs. Rosemsry, Pauline Smith, Pers sec. MOD Martin Mers. Selb Martanet Menous and

MOD. Marina, Mrs Shelia Margarel, Horours and Appointments sen; Min of Agric, Fisheries and Pool Medvinam Harry Brown, Madig Graces, tide of Styc. For serv the Rural Bretail Trade. McCaffery, Mins Islama, Prova Person, Modig Graces, tide of Styc. For serv the Paper Marketon Harry Brown, Madig Graces, tide of Styc. For serv the Paper Marketon M

coramity in Lianumog, Power, Owen, Miss Nerys, Administrative (dfr, Forestry Camera, Owen, Arthur Reginald, Lately petry, Camera, Owen, Arthur Reginald, Lately petry, High Rading Crick et Cath, Essex, For nerv Cricket.

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Salter, Mrs. Betty I sucly chan of Governors, Chasen Hill School, Glouseriershipe, For serv Educ. Soundry, Roger Quenten, Sub Offit, Corumall Cray-Fre Brigade, Per serv the Pre Servac Serval, Mrs. John Margaret, For serv the commity in Feering, Deson, Sarva, George Association, Serval, Mrs. John Margaret, For serv the commity in Enfeld Scannamell, Mrs. Junel Strain, For serv Desoled People and their Carriers in Anna. Schwab, Mrs. Anna, Restaurabrur. For serv to Tursian. Scott, Gaw., For serv the London Transport Housing Association, Scott, Miss Hasel Carrington, Laley maco Offic MOO. Scott, James, For serv the Commits mgg Raced Annanes: Lid. For serv the Commits mgg Raced Annanes: Lid. For serv the Commits mgg Haced Annanes: Lid. For serv the Commits mg. Mrs. Jon, For serv Primary Educ. Sheaton, Arthur Ernest, Technical dir. Woodworking Mochinery Suppliers Association For serv the Woodworking ind. Shieles, David, Laley Principal Doorleeper, House of Commons. Stingles, Mrs. Phylis Wilson, For serv Mentally III Feople on Jer-



champion, is appointed MBE Tony Marshall/Empics

Denise Lewis, European and Commonwealth heptathlon

Users: Persita, Victor Daniel, chm. Brit Herbai Medicines Association. For serv the Harrhal Medicines ind. Persy. George Edward, mag. Se. Hyperion Records. For serv the Music: Publishing and Philisps. Harvald Edward, For serv the commy in Tetheny Gloroesterable. Philisps. Mirs. May. For serv Farmal Counselling. Philipps. Mirs. Ame. For serv Farmal Counselling. Philipps. Mirs. Ame. For serv Edward in the Philisps. Mirs. Ame. Por serv St. Martin in the Philis High School, Loudon. Pierce. David. Lately Sen Trabring Advisor. Dept. for Edward. Popular for Edward Employment. Pinto, Mirs. Agueba. Aids. Sen Pers see, H.M. Board of Customs and Euces. Portex, Gerald Pope. Dept for Internal Development. Parts, Herbert John. Governor S. H.M. Prison Geradon. Portex. Mar. Marpor Hyrrel, Perserv the contemty, especity Young People. In Lambeth. Landon. Pormater, Sisler Therest. Lately Onto may. Elgood House Church Army Hotzle. Marykchone. Landon. Pro very Herocless and Mensch. Landon. Proventers, Sisler Therest. Lately Onto may. Elgood House Church Army Hotzle. Marykchone. Landon. Pro very Herocless and Mensch. Prison. Prison. Mar. Alson May. Minde Thin. Perserv the Willy S. in Wilshine. Prast. Melsohn. Lander, Chester-le-Street District Cel. For serv Local Govt. Presson. Mrs. Alson May. Minde Thin. Perserv Herocless. Prison. Prison. Mrs. Messch. Prison. Mrs. Herocless. Mocds. Prison. Amon. Prov. Music Edward. Prison. Training and Enterprise Cel. For serv Training, partic for those with Special Nocks. Priso. Ambany. Cecl. Sub Offit Herefurd and Worcester Fire Brigate. For serv Fre Service. Quinn., Mrs. Bestrice Elizabeth. For serv the Counselling of the Pamilles of Prisoners and for the Victims of Crime Quink, Releard. Laily Combustion may. Philosopa pic. Pris serv Fres Ervice. Quinn., Mrs. Bestrice Elizabeth. For serv the Counselling of the Pamilles of Prisoners and for the Victims of Crime Quink, Releard. Laily Combustion may. Philosophy Prisoners and for the Counselling of the Pamilles of Prisoners and for the Victims of Cr

Vasey, Mrs. Penelope, Gen Dental Practiminer and Chair, Committee on Vocational Training in Eng and Wales. For serv Dental Training, Vere, Geof-frey Russon, For serv the commy in Biley. West Varishire. Vine, Mrs. Valerie End, For serv the Sove The Châlere Fund in Barmouth, Gwynedd, Vesper, Mrs. Amice Hubback, For serv the commy in Ruthin and District.

Wadding, Mrss Harries Ellen, Church Organist, For serv the commy in Marsh Gibbon, Bucking-barnstone Walker, Mrs. Albem Dork, chm, Billing-shurst For servich Cel. Pro Serv the commy in

sey, Shreeve, Mrs. Sheila Beth, For serv Historic Dress, Silley, Niernal, For serv commy feathous in Bradford, thristine Shates, Panick Robin, For serv the Police. Single, Niernal, For serv commy feathous in Bradford, thristine Shates, Panick Robin, For serv Mempa and to the country in Newbory, Berischile. Shath, Mrs. Stander Marry, For serv footering, Braith, Mrs. Enabeth Marry, For serv Postdaring, Smath, Mrs. Enabeth Marry, Per serv frostering, Smath, Mrs. Enabeth Marry, Oxishire. Shath, Mrs. Leolyn, Per serv Desaduaged People in Cowicy Oxishire. Smath, Miss. Jean, District Nurse, Frican, Saring, For serv Heathi Care. Smath, John William Loue, Prison Orig Ltt. Prison Hadesley Colony, Smath, Michael, Engineering, 1997. Buckhoe Londers, J.C. Bandford Encapators Ltd. For serv the commy in Bocester. Staffordsime. Smath, Stales Patrick, Por serv the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, Norfish, Sanyth, Gerald Victor. Por charitable serv. Solley, Peter John. Sergeant. Mrs. Fol. For serv the Police. Spence. John Andrey, For sarv the commy in Cheinsford. Essee. Spenceley, Mrs. Judih Ame. Gen Medical Practitioner: Inversees. Per serv Health Care. Spencer, John James, Higher Professional and Technology Offir, Pattherford Appleton Laboratory Pre serv Microwave Research. Springford, James Frances, shans Official Driver, H.M. Board of Customs and Excise. Spare Terence Arthur, Ambulanceman. For serv the Ambulance Service and to the commy in London. Steele, Mrs. Bradit Penelope Pamein, Local Offir 2, Benefits Agency, OS. Stewart, Mrs. Synth Etzabeth, For serv People with Learning Disabilities. Stockned, Denis Trevor, For serv Torison in Bedsie, Warkshire. Stane, Mrs. Judith Gabrielle, Par serv Yeonge People with Learning Disabilities. Stockned, Denis Trevor, For serv the Commity in Aglestone. Stand. Mrs. Marsan. Par serv the Commity in the Isle of Shepper, Summers. Roger, Prison Off: Band R. Scottish Prison Service. Brains, Par serv the Cherk, Proper Stand, Proserv Brad. Scottish Prison Service. Brains, Par serv the Cartific

Rathum and Destrict.
Wasdeby. Miss Harriet Ellen, Church Organist. For serv the commy in Marsin Gibbon. Bucking-bansture Washase, this. Alleen Daris, churst Paristh Cel. For serv the commity in Billing-shurst. West Sussen. Walker, Lord. Billing-shurst. West Sussen. Walker, Lord. Paperbeeper, H.M. Bid of in Ruct Walker. Sydney, For serv commity Arts Educ in Montroe. Angus. Walliss. Mrs. Elzabeth. For serv the Society of Indexers. Walliss. Brazileth. For serv the Society of Indexers. Wallers. Sam Rabert, Dit Orange The Theory. Richmond. Surrey. For serv the Theatre. Wand. John Hollidge, Founder, J. H. Wand Group. For serv the Electronics and Ward. Anthony Peter, Besd of Advanthmess. Military Aircraft and Aerostructures. BAs. For serv the Aerospace and Warr, John. Sen Facilities mgs. Met Pol. For serv the Police and to Young People. Washon. Michael, Frances. Joseph. For serv Prison Batrule of Visators. Weaver, John Michael, Listly Estates. Servaces mgr. Harrygale College. North Yorkshire. For serv Educ. Weensan, John van. ence dig. Task Force Albania. For serv the Conlidera of Albania. Weight. Mrs. Lorraine. For serv the Wochmungun Primary School. Wool-hamplor, Berkshire. Weir, James Erskine, For serv the commity wells. Mrs. Lorraine. For serv the commity wells. Mrs. Lorraine. For serv the commity wells. Mrs. Ball Margaret. For serv the commity wells. Mrs. Ball Margaret For serv. Service. While. James Per serv. Service. Williams. For serv. Committy Regeneration. Whitties, Rarold Raymond. Northern Line Project Sastions mgs. Lordon Underground For serv Vublic Hrasport and Go Overseas Aid to Bosnia. Weightman, Inn Blur. For serv the Quarry Ball. Mrs. Ball. Prac. Per serv. Humber. For serv. Williams. David Bryan, Dr. Eurogroup for Animal Weighte. Williams. Dr. General Restudence of Mrs. Ball. Prac. Williams. Dr. General Mrs. Resident mg. Conderation Contr. Schoter Williams. Dr. General Mrs. Sch serv Hung People. Woolland, Mrs. Patricia, Lately Pers see, Dept for the Environment. Transport and the Rejons. Wormsleighton, Mrs. Sheish Kathleen, Member, St. Edmundsbury Borough Col. For serv the commy in West Sulfolk and to the Bury St. Edmunds Womens Aid Centre. Worvall, David Elhol, Infrastructure mgr. Electronics Data Systems Ltd. For serv the Defence led Worth, Jack, For serv the Ton Class Association. Wright, Desmond Wesley Scott, Ploughing Tator and Judge. For serv Agriculture. Wrighton. Reglould Albert Clarics. Perseave the commy in Wilenball. West Midhards. Waga. Henry Martin. For serv Sport for Disabled People. Pan, Tim, For serv the Chinese commiy and to commit Relations. Hung, Kas Kin, For serv the National Portrait Gallery.

Royal VICTORIAN ORDER

Knight Grand Cross (GCVO) Somerleyton, Savile William Francis Crossley, The Lord, KCVO, Lately Master of the

Devonshire, Deborah Vivien, The Duchess of, Trustee, R Collection Trust

Knight Commander (KCVO) Digby, Edward Henry Kenelm, The Lord, JP, Lord-Lt of Dorset. Carr-Ellison, Col Sir Ralph Harry, TD, Lord-Lt of Tyne and Wear Holmes Sellors, Patrick John, LVO, Surgeon-Oculist.

Commander (CVO) Higham. Cdr Michael Bernard Shepley, R.N., kty Grand soc, United Grand Lodge of Eng. Jennings. Peter Noville Waler. Serjeant at Arms. House of Commons. Sciates. John Richard, Member of Cd.

Peter Nevile Walle, Sergema at ht ma, processor Commons. Sciater, John Richard, Member of Cel. Duchy of Lancaster. Lieutenant (J. 1901)
Ablist, John Levenon-Gower, Member of The Primess Prist-Bro. Anton. Mrs. Cherrill Diann. MVQ. Sales Ledger Administrator. R Household Blair. Robin Ort, Purus Benere to the Lard High comme Remourt. Edward George, MVQ. RVM, Lauely Sen Conservator. R Collection. Pergus, Miss Sheem Mary, RVV, Sec to the Massier of the Household. Hall. The Reverend Canon George Rumner, Domestic Chaptson to The Queen at Sandringham. Haussfard. Neil Martin, Treas Accuminat, Hall Treas Rodgetta, Cupt David Perry Langley, Lately sec to the Lz Governor of Cherus-ey, Moore, The Reverend Camon Michael Merville, Moore, The Reverend Camon Michael Merville, Ringhed, Chaplain, Chaple R, Hampton Court Paixen. Bolderroses-Reddems, Mrs. Jane Mary Elhabeth, Lady in Walling to The Princess B. Stewart, John Burry Blagham, OBE, High Constable of Holyroodhouse.

Member (MVO)

Annadi, Emmanuel Orbi, Lately dir of Rundraisleg, The Princes Trust. Bishap, Mrs. Pamelslag, The Princes Trust. Bishap, Mrs. Pamelslable, Persoyuel dir and Administratur, Covi. House, Camberra. Geodali, Miss Sarah Lucy Georgina, See. The Prince of Waless Household, Hassall, George, Rusiness Llaison dir, Rover Group Limited, Johnson, Mrs. Gall Edzherh, Prinancial Controller, R. Callection, Larnder, Sg. Christopher John, Riy Protection Dept, Met Pol. Macekwan, Maj Andrew Charles Burrell, Lalely Temporary Egnerry to Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mohare Michrery, Mrs. Alexandra Gay, See to the private see to The Duke of Edinburgh, Michiwera, Johns Simon, mgg dir, UniTrech Complete Computing, Middleburgh, Mrs. Gilfem Lesley, Chief Clerk, private see Office. Moore, Mrs. Jeane Elizabeth, Lately vice-chu of the Devenshire Committee of The Privaces Trust. Stem. Jonethon Agriboury, Lately asst private see to The Princes Trust. Stem. Jonethon Agriboury, Lately asst private see to The Prince Trust. Stem. Jonethon Mrs. Beverley Ann. Clerk to the Lieutenancy, City of Edinburgh. Member (MVO)

Royal Victorian Medal

HVM
Ambruse, Barry Russell, Tractor Driver, Crown
Estate, Windoo: Bigsby, Robert Paul, Dep ch
Stoward, R Train Bint, Die Sgi Maj Walter Rarry,
The Queens Body Gaard of the Yeomon of the
Guard Bryant, Consoble Stephen Charles, No
Protection Dept. Met Pul. Carlin, Constable
Joseph Kevin, Bry Protection Dept, Met Pul. Cot-

trell, Richard George, Driver, Gardens Dest, Crown Estate, Windsor, Day, Joseph Walter Frank, Lately R. Mews, Buckingham Palace, Gillender, Constable Paul George, Riv Protection Dept, Met Pol, Hansell, Div Sgi May Charles, Thomas High, BEM, The Queens Body Guard of the Yeumen of the Guard, Hollis, Miss Margarel Elsa, Housennaid, Gott House, Adelalde, Nicoton, Exymond Claud Cyril, Electrician, Buckingham Palace, Soukard, Stephen Ritchael, Sen Cardency Kensington Palace, Sewart, Mrs. Agnes Annie Watt, Ladys Baid, Household of the Lord High coursur Walkerdine, Div Sgt Maj Ranald David, Lately The Queen: Body Guard of the Veramen of the Guard.

Diplomatic & Overseas List

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De Chastelain, Gen Alfred John Gardyne Drummond, CMM, O.C., Co-chm, Northern Ireland

Order of ST MICHAEL & ST GEORGE

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Commander (CMG) Commander (CMG)
Cansing Michael John, Dep din Goot Cemmunicatious Beadquarters DiSouza, Dr. Frances
Gertrude Unive. For serv Immun rights. Eiden,
Stewart Graham, OBE, Lately FCO, Garrod, Li
Gen Sir John Martin Carruthers, KCB, OBE,
Lately had of the Office of the High Bepresentative of the European Union in Mostan fortner Vigostavia. Gersam, John Hemy Cary, Comsellor,
FCO, Gordan, Jean Francuis. H.M. Ambassador, Algiers, Illman, John, H.M. Ambassador, Algiers, Illman, John, H.M. Ambassador, Byesel Cort. Lately Dep dir-Gen, European Comma, Lewis, Prof Geoffirey Lewis, Por
Serv Turkish studies. Phillips. Alm. For serv ropean Commun. Lewis, Prof Geoffrey Lewis, Por-serv Turkish studies. Phillips, Alan, For serv-human rights. Sheinwald, Nigel Elton, Lalely Communitar, FCO. Webster Alen Gregg, Dir. De-velopment and Training Services, Br Cel. West-cett, Nicholas. James, Counsellne, FCO. Witneshures, Miss Elizabeth Susen, Luichy Legal Commolio: UKMissaon to the United Natione, New

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Rodley, Prof Nigel, For serv human rights and internat law. Commander (CBE) Deconta, The Honourable Ernest David, JP. Speaker, House of Assembly, Bermarka, Bynd, Dr. Sameel Wilson, For serv med missionary work in Alrica, Moore, Roger George, For chavitable serv especty to UNICEP, Paul, Patrick Blockwell, For serv Brit commi intrats in Hong Kong.

Officer (OBE)

Officer (OBE)
Atherton, David, For serv music in Hong Kong, Board, Kathryn, Die Br Ccf, Colombin, Broadhad, Prof Robert Lumb, For serv child hill in developing countries, especty Malawi. Clarele,
Julian Maurice, For publ. commity and himsen
rights serv, Brit Virgin Islands. Coe. Richard
William Tebuti, For serv cammity projects in Jamaice, Coustanalase. The Reverend Catton Colin
Richard Chad, For serv Brit communities in the
Diocesse of Gibralkar in Europe. Callinea, Prof
Timothy Revil, For serv commy bith in Majawi.
Dean, Sister Judith Ellen, MEE, For serv youth
and the commity in Swazfland. Drake. Martin
James, For serv the European Monkoring Mission in former Ymgstavia. Edea, The Honcommity and swazfland Drake. Martin
James, For serv the European Monkoring Mission in former Ymgstavia. Edea, The Honcountly and serv in the Cayman Islands. Edder.
Alexander Frest, Poloc Advises, Brit Development
Devision in the Caribbean. Poster. David John,
Per humanisarum serv. partic in Eastern Europe.
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Lt Col Lionel Hugh Michael. MBE. For serv
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in Bermotal. Hensery, Lenke, For serv vontunary
commity work in Chile. Higglas. Thomas Victor.
For serv Brit engis and to the well of the underprivileged in Palistan. Hamphries, Anthony
John, Sen Information Off, FCO. Jermer, Donald Poul Robert, First ser. FCO. Lewis, Arishory Pullip, Die, Br Cel, Sund Araha. Misiek, Ariel
Rudolph, For publ serv, Turks and Calcus Islands.
Nocal, Juba Leefe Watson, For serv Brit commiintrists in Bangladesh and to the Brit cummy in
Chitagong, Pryde, Roderick Stokes, Lustey dir.
Br Cel Teaching Centre. Hong Kong, Bamsay,
Roderick Allam MarGerego, MBE, For serv BritIndonessa Irade and in the commity Remingion.
Dr. George, For serv publ lath in the Middle East.
Roberts, Michael William Guild. Headman, Brit
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For

Member (MBE)
Abeidervahussor, Mrs. Nancy, Bun Bris Consul, Nounkehot, Maurianin. Aerschot, Mrs. Geraldine Clair van. Lately see to the eure see, North Atlantic Treaty Organisation. Anderson, Mrs. Giche Bisabeth, Bead, Gen Office, Brit Hight Commt. Camberra. Anderson, Mrs. Luelia Frances. Far nitribite and welf serv the cummity, Reuga. Andrews, Mas Mangarat Rose, Rir serv sick and tuderprivileged children. Zambin. Barton. Arthur John, Dir of Fisheries, Falkland is lands Govt. Bell, Miss Josephine Mary. For nurang serv with the Puropean Common Medical Service. Beng, Guy van den, For serv the Brit commty in Portugal. Bischer, Mrs. Molly Patricka. Lately Locally-engaged Offir. H.M. Embassy. Tranzo. Brit. Smart Lemand, Lately bd. Logistics Business Unit, PCO. Bochenska. Mrs. Patrick. Lately chim. Red Cross Society, Vannatu. Bransham, Terry, Locally-engaged Contineereal Offic Brit Consultate Gen. Torento. Bridgewater, Mrs. Gillian Carel, Locally-engaged Contineereal Offic Brit Consultate Gen. Torento. Bridgewater, Mrs. Gillian Carel, Locally-engaged Accountant and Pro-Consul, Munich. Burges. Stephen, Lately Hon Brit Consult, Asmara. Barke, Steven John.

Member (MBE)

For serv educ and Engish Language Teaching, Malaysia. Campbell, Mrs. Shron, Programme mgr. Save the Children Fund, Northern Aghanistan. Chappell, Mrs. Elirida Louise, For publ and commty serv, Berumda, Cas, Mrs. Norill Ione, Housekeeper/Cod., Gowl House, Tortola, Brit Virgin Islonds. Dhanji, Dr. Vasmin Nathoo, Lately th Practaloser, Brit European Medical Clinic, Klev. Doland, Jonathan Patrick, For serv IR-Quitar trade. Doughtiy, Miss Margaret Ann. For serv in promoting basic luterary sink for depreved students, USA, Dunean. Alistin Charlett, For serv Bru-Arab understanding. Foreman, Join, For serv in ewild fol badepup patients, Crowin Galliane, James Patrick, JF. For serv commy ywil. Garnhar, Gattley, Colin Edvin, For serv H. M. Gowts emergency aid programme. Bosun. George, Eric Mervyn, For serv the commty in the fit of pussic. St. Helens. Goddard, Mrs. Mary Elizabeth, For well and commeling serv the Engilia-speaking, communities in Parts. Grey, Timothy James, Headmast, Brit School, Scoul Foreign School, Korea.

Hanner, Martin, For serv Brit engring overseas, laterty to India. Burnis, Mrs. Elizabeth, Wilton Part Conference Admunistratur, FCO Haynes, Mrs. Patricas Ruth. Pern asst to the Governor. Bermida. Hunter, Christopher, Founderdir, Centre for Peacemaking and commy Development. Ha, Mrs. Jennie Alexandra, For hith well serv the socially under-privileged in India. Jones, Miss Catheruse Helen Courter. Den 1 of Mis-

ment. Jha, Mrs. Jennie Alexandra, For hith welf serv the socially under-privileged in India. James, Miss Catherme Helen Courtier, Dep hit of Misson, H.M. Embassy, Trana. Key. Roger Marcia, Fir serv the Botarwan Geological Survey. Kim, Dr. Freds Liften, Bir charitable serv distribed children, Karea. Laws. Lawrence Richard. For voluntary counselling serv. Sandi Arabia. Legged, Simon James, For serv the commity. Papual New Guinea. Lyke, Mrs. Margaret Niven. For serv the work of Cheshire Hames in Swaziland. Masson, Malcolm Alfred Anthony, Brit vice-Consul. Amsterdam and chn. Amsterdam RAF Association. Missgenback, Rains-Carlstoph John Genardiogen von, Locally-engaged Commercial Offs. Brit Con.

Makedan Afred Ambary, Brit vice-Cousul, Amsterdam AR-Association, Massendanch, Hant-Christoph John Generingen von Locally-engaged Commercial Offic Brit Consulate, Gen. Duesseldorf. McCalloch, Graham Alexander Stuart. Lately dir, Br Cel. Dubai, Miller, Jamie Jonatha, Second sec. FrO Oddy, Mrs. Denius Annie, For serv the Brit country and to loc charities in Seoul Osborn, Mrs. Dorothy Joan, Lately Locally-engaged Consular Offic Haram. Pharoah, Mrs. Carole Jeonifice For Charitable serv overseas, latterly in Malsysta. Philips, Mrs. Sarah, For well serv disadvantaged children in Massows. Robinson, Richard Theroc, Hon Brit Consul, Tamale, Ghana. Bendor-Sannel, Dr. Paul Rabert, For serv med well in Northern Tunisia. Seeth. Mrs. Eurwen, For nerv the loc Brit commy in Partugal Sharp, Mrs. Jil Trehame, Second sec, PrO. Portier-Smith, Mrs. Eleanor Jillian, For well serv the expalrate commy in Spath, Sanyth, Miss Caroline Ann. Lately Charge delikings, H.M. Embassy, Thioli. Talbot, Ross Hastings Fransbow, For serv caterial ment. Bermuda, Tulle, George, For serv UK commi intrists in Swipsrahad. Turbone, Mrs. Marjoric Constance, OAM, National pres, Austhritae Society, Translal, Mrs. Marjor Ruth, Brit Consul, Herakhon, Creta, Waits, Mrs. Carnilla Augustins, For Serv edine and commity welf Montserrat. Willeux, Mrs. Geraldine Hensborth, For commity serv in Japon, Welper, Mrs. Schonie Grace Mary, For serv the Anglican commy, Liego.

ROYAL NAVY

Knight Commander (RCB)
Blackham, V-Adml Jeremy Joe,
Companion (CB)
Blackham, V-A rn, V-Admi David Anthony James, LVO.

Order of the British Empire Commander (CBE) Leighton, Commodore Barry, R Navy, Nether-clift, Commodore Andrew William, OBE, R.

R Navy, Restauce, Cer David Jameh, R Navy, Sminnouds, Cdr Richard Michael, R Navy, Thomas,
Cdr Geoffrey Charles, R Navy,
Member (MBE)

Althenhed, Li Cdr Gilliam Ghassford, R Navy,
Austin, Li Cdr Stevant John, R Navy, Baddry,
Leading Writer David Mark, Barrachough, CPO
Murine Engineering Artificer Steven, Bossal, Li
Cdr Narr't Tomans, R Navy, Broom, Li Neal, John,
Queen Alexandras R Naval Nursing Service.
Brown, Li Cdr Anthony Graham, R Navy, Flannagan, CPO Wenon Engineering Artificer Robin
Joseph, Gambia, CPO Leyd Wiffiam, Geassen,
Temporary Li William, R Navy, Gill, Li Cdr Paul
Prancis, R Navy, Logn. CPO David William,
Mansel, CPO Smoon John Richard, Murchisson,
Li Cdr Densild, R Navel Reserve, Nichola, WO
Benry, Restarick, CQ Darren Mork, R Marmet,
Robins, WO Mark Duncan, Tinson, Beginnental
Sgi Maj Roge; R Marnes, Wilnod, WO Paul

THE ARMY

Order of the Bath OTRET OF THE DAM!

Raight Commander (ECB)

Grant, Lt Gen Scott Carnegie, CB, Late Corps
of R Engineers.

Companion (CB)

Ewer, Maj Gen Grahom Anderson, CBE, Late R.

Corps of Transport, Olivez, Maj Gen Rachard

Arbur, OBE, Late Corps of R Engineers. Short,

Maj Gen William Robert, Late R Army Medical

Corps.

Order of the British Empire Knight Commander (KBE)

Barton, Li Gen Edmund Portescue Gerard, OBE, Lote R Beginnent of Artillery, Commander (CBE) Commander (CBE)
Burls, Col Timothy William, MC, Late The Purchase Regiment, Laurie, Brig Michael Ivan, Late Intelligence Corpe, Magga, Col Peter John Tyler, OBE, Late The R Logistic Corps, Ocalingham, Brig Derek Michael, Late 18th/Sth The Queens R Luncers, Price, Bridgader Curistopher Keith, Late 18th/Sth The Queens Commander Commande

Line 1407200 Annys pressurs.

Officer (OBE)
Bird, Li Col Richard Grant, The R Logistic Corps.
Sristow, Acting Col Derek Heavy, Canabshire
Army Cadet Furce, Carrelli, Li Col John James,
Scots Guards, Crowe, Li Col Julian Edward
Michael, Soots Güzrek, Harking, Li Col Anthony Duman, Corps of R Engeneers, Henderson,
Li Col Lan Frazer Greaves, Intelligence Corps.
Kessp, Li Col Hugh Akstair, Corps of R Electrical
and Mechanical Engineers, London, Li Col
Alasdar William Buist, The Black Wartch, MacDonald, Li Col John, R Corps of Signals, Parish,
Li Col Michael Charles, MRE, The Kings Regiment, Paterson, Li Col Michael Geddes, Corps
of R Engineers, Petter, Li Col Anthony Michael
Purniss, The R Irish Regiment, Price, Li Col
David Evan, Corps of Army Music, Stovens, Li
Col David Charles, Corps of R Engineers.

Member (MBE) Member (MBE)

Member (MBE)
Allan, Maj Devid Lestie, R Regiment of Artillery.
Armitage. Maj David Stephen. Curps of R Engineers. Bawden. Maj Peter Charles, R Curps of Stepists. Bayatan. Capt Robert Bissett. The R Logistic Capp. Blanks. Maj Jan Jamen. Corps of R Engineers. Bint. Maj Gregory Lovering, R Regiment of Artillery Collinground, Staff Sgt. Lawrence, Adjutam Gens Curps. Collister, WO Class? Reynound John. Irish Guards. Cotterill. Maj John Harold, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Forester's Regiment. Cruicksbank. Maj Paul Melvin. The Highlanders. Datson. Capt Fidelix Neion Kwame. R Regiment of Artillery. Davies. Maj Rope, BEM. The R Logistic Corps. Dehnel. Capt Stephen Heywood, Grenadige Guards. Denken. WO Class? Patrick John. Corps of R Engineers. Dancan. WO Class? William Kess; The EL Logistic Corps. Guards, Denham, WO Chass I Patrick John, Corpa of R Engineers. Duncan, WO Chass I William Kesy, The R Logistic Corpa. Parrelly, Maj Patrick Edward, Adjubant Gens Corps. Fletcher, Maj Francis Douglan, R Regiment of Artillery, Territorial Army, Gaskin, Staff Set Stephen Harold, Corpa of R Edectrical and Mechanical Engineers. Golonth, Cpl Euton Wellesley, Corps of R Engineers. Golonth, Cpl Euton Wellesley, Corps of R Engineers.

Sgi Christopher Lee, Corps off Engineers, Jarnan, Wo Class 2 Simon David The R Logistic
Corps, Jeames, Acting Capt Feter Alam, Berkahre
Army Caude Furce, Jeng, Capt Muchnel R Army
Medical Corps.

Rides, Kinnear, Colour Sgi Atholf Findlay, Scots
Guards Lane, Maj Barry Remeth Edward. The
Princess of Waless R Regament, Territoral
Army, Lowder, Maj George, Edward. The
Princess of Waless R Regament, Territoral
Army, Lowder, Maj George, Edward. The
Routs, May, Map Peter Gaisford, The R Logistic
Corpa, MeArthur, Sgi Karro, Lesley, The R Logistic
Corpa, Michael Corpa, Corp.
Channes I Mertin, Corp.
Corp. of R Engineer, The Ridge, Fully, Michael Army, Sonderson, Maj Ian, The Life Guards, Sherchan,
La Rajendar, The R Girucha Ridley, Smith, Bonbarther Steven John, R Regiment of Artillery,
Spencer, Wo Class; Nigel Geoffrey, Corps of R
Engineers, Stoddart, Maj Gavin Neill Macleod,
Belff, The R Highhand Resiliers, Summerseth, Cyl
Peter William, The Black Watch, Tregear, Cept
Michael John, The Honourable Arillery, Compost,
Perrularial Army, Wolfenden, Maj Robin Christopher, The R Regiment of Pusibers, Wood, Sgi
Barry Richard, R Tank Regiment.

Royal Air FORCE

Order of the Bath Enight Commander (ECB)
Ony, A M John Romney, OBE, R Air Furce. Order of the British Empire Commander (CBE)

Ratchelor, Gp Capt Anthony John, R Air Force.
Cooper, A Cdre Christopher Forrest, R Air
Force.

Officer (OBE)

Adlesett, S. Lid-Toresace Raymond, R. Air Force, Anderson, W. Cdr James Patrick, R. Air Force, De-zonie, Gp. Capi. Andre Ferdinand Paul, R. Air Force, Fockmed, W. Cdr John Stuart, MBE. R. Air Force, Possenby, Gp. Capi. John Maurice May-prard, R. Air Force, Vork, W. Cdr Peter, R. Air Force.

Member (MBE) Member (MBE)

Birch, Sq Ldr Peter Nigel, R Air Force, Boyd, Sq Ldr Christopher John, R Air Force, Bann, Chief Technician Christopher Martin, R Air Force, Ferginson, Cpl Charles Stuart, R Air Force, Griffilds, F Sgt Leonard Colin, R Air Force, Griffilds, F Sgt Leonard Colin, R Air Force, Laws, Sq Ldr David Lionel, R Air Force, Laws, Sq Ldr David Lionel, R Air Force, MacRitchie, Cpl William John, R Air Force, MacRitchie, Cpl William John, R Air Force, Marsh, Sq Ldr Michael Hayda, R Air Force, Marsh, Ft Lt Howard, R Air Force, McCann, Fit Lt Arthur Michael, R Air Force, McCann, Sq Ldr Michael Joseph, R Air Force, McKenna, Sq Ldr Michael Joseph, R Air Force, McKenna, Sq Ldr Michael Joseph, R Air Force, McKerin, Sq Ldr Michael Joseph, R Air Force, Marchael R Air Force, Marchael R

Royal Red Cross ianid, Cdr Isabella Barclay. Queen Alexandras

ARRO: Pipper La Neale Derek, Queen Alexandras R Nasal Nasa-lan Samuno Queen's Police Medal

Queen's Police Medal
QPM

Blain Ian Warwick. Ch Const. Surrey Police. Cannon. Paul. Inscp. South Wales Pulice. Chinkollan.
Gordon. Constable, Avon and Somerest Constability. Clarks. David Lloyd. Assistant ch Constable. Vest Yorksure Poloce. Cooper, Desmond
lettan Rhys. Detective Concarble. Devon and
Cormani Constability. Crosspan, David James.
Detective ch Insp. Met Pul. Cartia, Michael
Noel. Assistant ch Constable, Police Information
Technology Organication. Cratiang, Graham Alfred Frank. Chief Superintendent, Avon and
Somerset Constabulary Flood. Brain Douglas.
Detective ch Superintendent, Rent Cray Constability. Gaspaz, Roger. Dir Intelligence, National Criminal Intelligence Service. Gilbertson.
David Edward Mitchael. Assistant Insp of Constability. Gaspaz, Roger. Dir Intelligence, National Criminal Intelligence Service. Gilbertson.
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Greater Manchester Police. Harkness. Miss.
Jillian Rosenary. Detective Constability. Willshire
Constable, Dereime Constability. Hookes. Beyan.
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Police. Woollous. Norman George, Ling. Humherdde Police. Curric, Michael David. Dep ch
Constable, Central Scotland Police. Dumean. John
Lavrence, Assistant ch Constable, Strathcyde
Police. Fraser. James, chun. Scottish Police Pedecrosson. Septer. Canle College. Lawrence, Assistant or Companie, Stranicyce Police, Fraser, James, chm. Scottish, Police Ped-cration, Napiec Cralg Galbratin, Imp. Strathchde Police, Fitzpatrick, Bernard, Superintenden, R Ulster Constability Kyle, William Dougan, Lotely Detective Insp. R Ulster Constability, Mo-Lotely Detective Insp. R. Ukter Constabulary, Mo niz, Harold Stephen, Dep contour, Bernouda Po-lice Service: Simons, Campbell DeCosta, Lately

Queen's Fire Service Medal QFSM

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Smil Offi to the Commandam, Fire Service College. Tummes, Graham John, Assistant ch Fire
Offir. Staffortshire Fire and Reactie Service.
Webb. Robert John Percy, Principal Control Offi,
London Fire and Crid Defence Authority MeMurdo, Miss Elizabeth, Sen Fire Control Operator Fife Fire and Rescue Service. Napier,

Colonial Police and Fire Service Medal CPM

THE INDEPENDENT

Prices set for a drop – eventually

THE ACID test of the success of By DIANE COYLE the euro will be whether its Economics Editor launch creates a genuine single European market. For only if there is a real increase in competition, boosting business and cutting prices for concy generate all of its promised

economic benefits. first 11 countries to join will want to be able to judge quite ahead for consumers. quickly whether the euro is having an impact where it mat- to a single currency will boost ters - on their wallets. Some experts are predicting widespread First, with everything priced in outbreaks of price wars.

scope for competition sending prices downwards. An internal Treasury report last March. which formed the basis of further investigations by the European Commission, found huge disparities in prices between countries.

Some of these variations 'have already achieved notoriety thanks to consumer pressure. Cars, for one. A report by the commission last year found that a Fiat Punto cost 21.4 per cent less in France than in the per cent cheaper in Germany, while a larger car such as the VW Passat was 14 per cent cheaper in France.

In some items, however, UK continental counterparts. For power. example, CDs sell for about 15 France. But, of course, they are prices for equivalent goods and services in the United States.

Only for a handful of items. such as clothing and footwear, are British prices among the EU's lowest. For others, including housing and transport, they are about the highest.

Bank charges are substan-

tially lower in the UK than over the Channel, at £18 a year for an account in credit compared with £35 in Germany and £88 in sumers, will the single curren- France. This advantage reflects precisely the fact that British high street banking is far more The 300 million citizens of the competitive - and demonstrates the scale of gains that could lie

The theory is that the switch spending power in two ways. euros, it will be easier to com-There is certainly plenty of pare prices because the tags will no longer have different currencies on them. People will become more willing to cross borders to shop, especially for expensive items. And that goes for Britons too, even though the UK is staying out of the first wave of membership.

Differences in VAT rates and sales duties complicate the comparison. But there can be little doubt that consumer pressure will force manufacturers to adjust their prices and, probably, will force governments to UK, a Renault Megane was 22 bring taxes more closely into line. The willingness of British consumers to spend a day on the cross-Channel ferries simply to buy cheaper alcohol and tobacco is a vivid demonstration shoppers do better than their of the potential consumer

Francesca Arcidiaco, of the per cent less here than in Consumers' Association, says: "We do expect the increased cheaper still in the bigger and transparency and increased more competitive American competition to drive prices market. Only about a quarter of down." She adds, however, that British prices are lower than it will not happen right away, and that the impact on the UK will be indirect.

The second result of the launch of the euro will be to make it easier for businesses to take advantage of economies of scale. Experts at the National Institute for Economic and Social Research in London found



A Frankfurt trader yesterday surveying a sign announcing "The euro comes' on the last stock market session of the year

that much of the difference in productivity levels between US factories and European ones was the fact that the former had much bigger production runs thanks to their larger market. As long as euroland does become a genuine single market, that boost to productivity from scale should translate into a

well as higher profits.

How quickly this might all happen is another matter. It is not until 2002 that the new notes and coins will be introduced, so prices will continue to be displayed in national currencies as well as euros.

Many businesses are waiting to see what others do before changing their own prices. Rebetter deal for customers, as tailers are under no compulsion to accept euros before

1 January 2002, although those signing up will be entitled to display the official "We accept euros" stickers.

Meanwhile, they put a higher priority on dealing with questions such as how to convert a DM1.99 price, which will be the equivalent of euros1.02, without being accused of prof-The European Commission has

suggested retailers might try to the cobwebs off the European get a competitive edge by launching "rounding down" campaigns. The Commission has set up observatories in each country to monitor price changes after the launch of the single currency.

To start with there is likely to be too little familiarity with iteering from the changeover the new currency for the fresh wind of competition to blow all

economy. The UK will not feel the full force until it joins, anyway. Other obstacles to lower prices will persist, especially for products such as fine perfumes or cars, where the distribution system is tightly controlled by the makers, so that competition

is pretty weak anyway. In addition, cultural influences will continue to divide the

ing preferences for everything - from whether a washing machine should be top or frontloading, to how much spice should be in sausages.

The Germans spend a higher proportion of their incomes on hygiene products, the Belgians splash out on accessories and Britons are the keenest buyers of books, newspapers and stationery. There is no such thing - yet - as the harmonised euro consumer.

Thus while some manufacturers, such as Procter & Gamble and Allied Domecq, are opting for European-wide brands and prices others, including Unilever, and also retailers such as Marks & Spencer, have indicated they will continue to set prices according to the local conditions.

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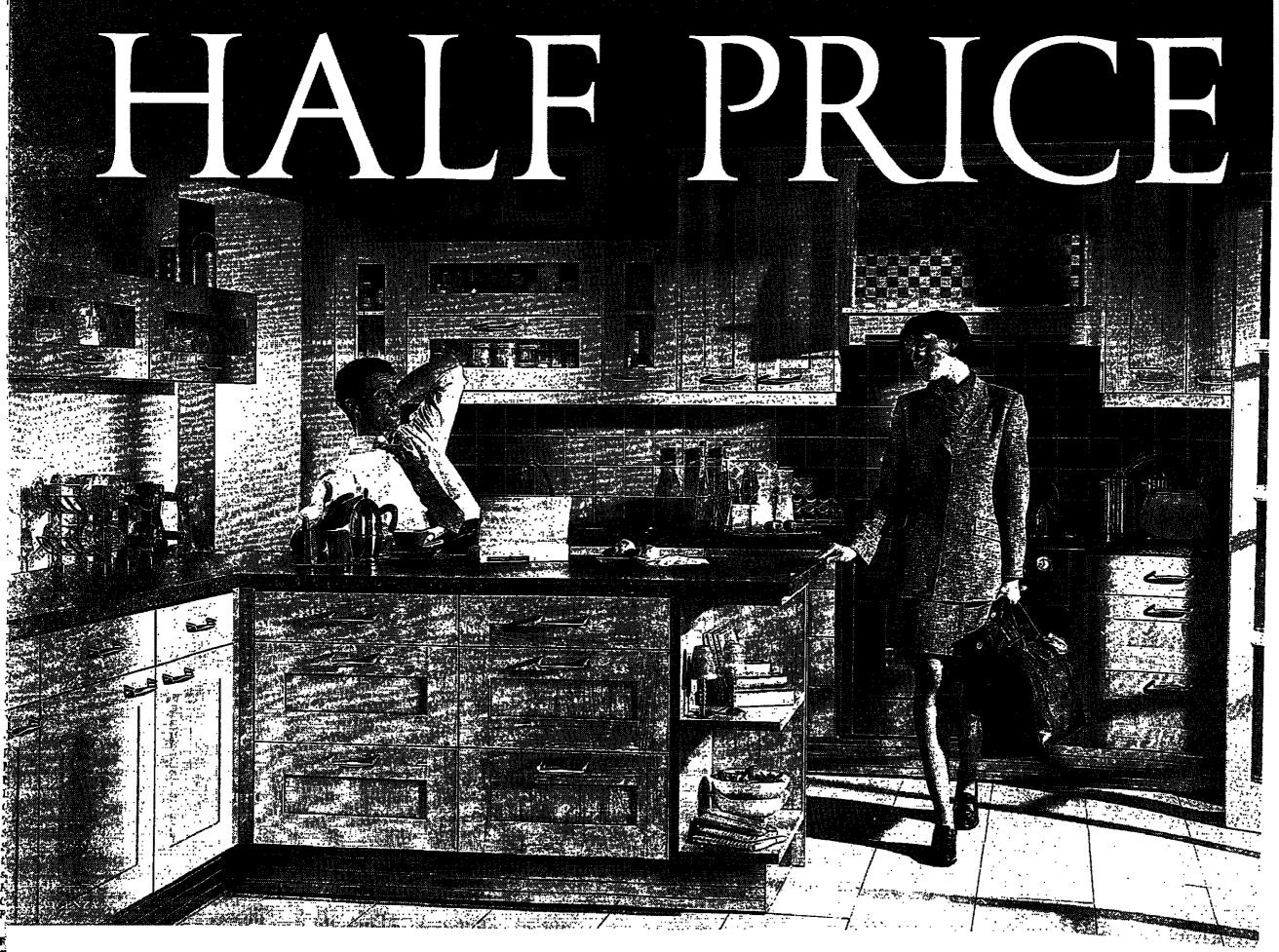
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But there is no question that pressure will build to tear down artificial barriers to pan-

European sales.
Take exclusive distribution networks for products such as expensive perfumes or pharmaceuticals, or regulations on the origins of food products. These will be in the front line of competition. Pressure from producers for protection from pan-European competitors explains those classic euro-scare stories about whether, say, cheese is only "feta" if it is made in Greece, whereas cheddar can be made anywhere. An EU directive in your favour is one of the best ways of protecting your market.

In the end, though, the grand single currency project will have failed if the average. everyday European shopper does not have a wider choice at lower prices in the coming years. Its economic success and its political support will depend, ultimately, on what the euro in your pocket will buy

Letters. Review, page 2





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Republicans start fight for White House

AS AMERICA looks forward to By Andrew Marshall the 2000 presidential elections. the first Republican candidate has broken cover John McCain, a Senator from Arizona, is the first to take formal steps towards a candidacy and others will follow in the next few days.

Senator McCain filed papers vesterday with the Federal Election Commission to establish the John McCain for President Exploratory Committee.

The 62-year-old senator is known in America as a moderate within the increasingly conservative party, and for that reason may have problems finding a secure base in the party's grass roots.

He is a veteran of the Vietnam War, and spent five years as a prisoner-of-war.

 Though he is a conservative. Mr McCain is seen as fiercely independent, and is well-liked beyond the party. He was behind this year's attempt to pass a Bill regulating the tobacco industry and an effort to clean up campaign finance, both of which were shot down, largely by his own side.

Mr McCain will have plenty of strong support from colleagues in Washington, as he is considered to be a political heavyweight and one of the most honest men in politics. "Many, many Republicans and Americans yearn for a new kind of leadership," said Warren Rudman, the committee coin Washington

senator. "John McCain is unique in his ability to offer conservative, independent, experienced leadership." But his independence antagonises other colleagues, who consider him a loose cannon. Next week another but very



McCain: First Republican candidate for President

different Republican Senator is also likely to make his move. John Ashcroft of Missouri is a religious conservative with close links to two of the most influential figures in the new Religious Right, Gary Bauer and James Dobson.

The Republican Party has become dominated by hardline southern conservatives, but this year's Congressional ident Bill Clinton have left it bathairman and himself a former tered and bleeding. The have exhausted themselves.

primaries to select candidates do not start until 2000, but candidates will want to move smartly to establish their ground and secure funding.

One reason why Republicans are moving early is that Steve Forbes, the billionaire magazine publisher who spent \$30m on an aborted campaign in 1996, is likely to declare soon and he has boundless funding.

The former vice-president Dan Quayle, former governor of Tennessee Lamar Alexander and former senator Jack Kemp are all waiting in the wings. The Governor of Texas, George W Bush, son of the former president George Bush, has said he will not decide whether to run until the spring.

The race for the candidacy will be hard-fought, with Mr Bush the present front-runner in terms of popular support and name recognition, but plenty of others have more backing among the party's most important supporters.

Money will be the key. A candidate, to be serious, needs about \$20m. This will be little problem for Mr Forbes, and Mr Bush also stands a good chance of building fighting funds quickly but others may struggle. It could be that candidates spend so much money and fight so hard in the prielections and the furore over maries that, by the time they the scandal surrounding Pres- reach the Presidential election in November 2000, they will

Nkem Chukwu (centre) with her husband, lyke Louis Udobi, and her mother, Janet Chukwu, in Houston yesterday

Octuplets are a blessing, says mother

first successfully delivered octuplets was released from hospital in Texas yesterday, saying she felt great, despite the stresses of a highly traumatic pregnancy and the anxious struggle for survival that has claimed the life of her smallest

"It wasn't easy," Nkem

THE MOTHER of the world's By ANDREW GUMBEL in Los Angeles

did it for the love I have for

Ms Chukwu has spent the past three months in hospital. She refused doctors' offers to abort one, or two, of the foetuses to improve the chances of the others. "I've never seen Chukwu said at St Luke's Epis- such a word in my Bible," she copal Hospital in Houston in her said. "I wasn't even going to first public appearance, "but I give it a thought, a second

thought." At a press conference, and the others by Caesarean ing or cysts in their brains. It sitting in a wheelchair, she told reporters to stand up and give thanks to God for her successful delivery. "I am blessed. I thank the whole world for their

support and prayers," she said. For six weeks she was confined to bed, and for three weeks she lay with her head tipped to the floor at a sharp angle. The first of her children two boys and six girls - was born normally on 8 December, revealed that they had no bleed-

section on 20 December.

The smallest, a girl named Odera who weighed just 10.3oz, died last Sunday. The heaviest child weighed 26oz at birth.

The children are still in a "critical" condition at the specialist neonatology unit at Texas Children's Hospital, also in Houston. Three are on ventilators, but the others are breathing on their own. An ultrasound

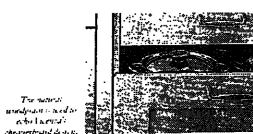
was described as "dramatic good news" since that would be a sign of future neurological problems. Doctors put their survival at about 92 per cent and they are likely to stay in hospital until their normal due date.

around 1 April. Donations have been flooding in to help the family. At the family's request no photographs or videotapes of the babies have been released.

AN EXTRA 10% OFF SALE PRICES MUST END SATURDAY

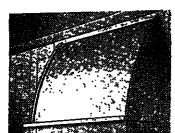
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BENJAMIN NETANYAHU

Failed to get necessary support over Wye Accord. but is a skilled and devious campaigner who will fight an aggressive campaign Age: 49

Party: Likud Chances: Down in polls but don't write him off



EHUD BARAK

Israel's most decorated warrior and a firm supporter of the peace process. Is standing on a platform of national reconciliation Age: 56 Party: Labour Chances: Good, but still has



AMNON SHAHAK

A political novice who has spent most of his life in uniform. Personal charisma may not be enough Age: 54 Party: Doesn't yet have a party; a centrist

Chances: Sporting - a

serious contender

Wants to run with Shahak Party: Likud defector, now a Chances: Slim

DAN MERIDOR

Pragmatic right-winger who

is a realist on the peace.

process. He argues that

there is no going back.



BENNY BEGIN

Son of Menachem. Believes Israel should control all. Israel's biblical territories. Will challenge Netanyahu from the right Age: 55.

Party: Likud defector Chances: None, but could split the right



UZI LANDAU

Senior backbencher; an unreconstructed hardliner and Likud traditionalist who will challenge Netanyahu from within the party Age: 55 Party: Likud Chances: Negligible



ARIEL SHARON

Defence Minister during the .. if Bibi stumbles-

Age: 70 Party: Likud Chances: Still hovering as an alternative to Netanyahu



RAFAEL EITAN

Former hard-driving general. Rough-hewn former chief of staff, his party is Lebanese war. Is propping up really a personal vehicle Netanyahu, but could step in for his own right wing nationalist and secularist agenda

Age: 69 Party: Tsomet Chances: Nil

Israeli election rivals make early start

ISRAEL WILL go to the polls on BY ERIC SILVER 17 May. That much is clear, but who the runners and riders will be remains murky. So far. six candidates have entered the field for prime minister, but others may join the race.

The 1999 elections will be the first time Israelis have had more than two competing cansecond ballot will follow on 1

The three main contenders are: Benjamin Netanyahu, the Likud incumbent whose coalition of seven right-wing and religious parties has disintegrated after only two-and-ahalf years; Ehud Barak, Labour

to prove himself

opposition leader, a former chief of staff and Israel's most decorated warrior, and Amnon Shahak, another top general who plans to run at the head of a centre party.

The opinion polls put Mr didates. If no one takes more Shahak ahead in a straight than 50 per cent of the vote, a contest with either of the other two, but trailing both of the other front runners in a threesided race. In an attempt to win over so-called oriental Jewish voters, Mr Barak has recruited David Levy, the Moroccan-born former Likud foreign minister, to his cause.

The Likud and Labour party

ing the campaign to five months they are giving Mr Shahak enough time to make mistakes. Although he retired as chief of staff in the summer, he officially hung up his uniform only last week. He has yet to announce the name of his new party, its programme or its other members.

Both the main parties fear his disruptive effect. The Likud is smearing him as a "leftist", while Labour has condemned him for splitting the left-wing vote and trying to parachute straight from 40 years in the army into the top spot in politics.

"Decorated with ranks and medals though he may be, Sha-

machines hope that by stretch- hak is a man in his mid-fifties who has not lived even one day as an ordinary citizen," a former Labour minister, Yossi Beilin, wrote in The Jerusalem Post. "While I salute him, I am not prepared to take the risk, just as no one would be prepared to be a passenger in an aircraft that I was piloting before I had learnt to fly."

Mr Barak has not yet given up hope of persuading his former army deputy to join him as Labour's prospective minister of defence, but Mr Shahak seems determined to win on his own. Although he shares Labour's commitment to the peace process with the Palestinians, he is not convinced

that Labour under Mr Barak can make it.

Three Likud rebels have announced they are challenging Mr Netanyahu. They are Dan Meridor, who resigned 18 months ago as finance minister, Benny Begin, son of the party's founder and former prime minister Menachem Begin; and Uzi Landau, chairman of the parliamentary foreign affairs

and defence committee. Mr Meridor says he will run at the head of a new centre party. He represents the pragmatic right, which recognises that the Oslo and Wye agreements with the Palestinians have changed the political map. "There has to be a compro-

mise," he argues, "but where as science minister in protest we draw the demarcation line is open to negotiation."

His main quarrel with Mr Netanyahu is over his leadership style. "While facing the most difficult and important negotiations in our history," he says, "we come to the table with a leadership that doesn't have an ounce of credibility left. We are represented by someone nobody believes in

Mr Meridor would like to run in harness with his fellow centrist Mr Shahak, but neither has so far conceded the number one position to the other. They share a reputation for decency and a hatred of Mr Netanyahu. Benny Begin, who resigned

at the January 1997 withdrawal from the West Bank city of Hebron, is challenging Mr Netanyahu from the right. He is still waving his father's banner for a "Greater Israel" and will campaign on a platform of opposition to the Oslo accord. His chances are slim.

Uzi Landau, another unreconstructed hardliner, is running against Mr Netanyahu for the Likud leadership. The party's 3,000-member central committee will choose its candidate for prime minister on 25 January. It is expected to adopt Mr Netanyahu again.

Two disaffected Likud ministers are also weighing their

Mr Netanyahu or to join a Shahak-Meridor centre party. They are the Defence Minister, Yitzhak Mordechai, who wants to accelerate the peace process, and the Communications Minister, Limor Livnat. the only woman in the cabinet,

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PICTURES

who wants to slow it down. An unexpected contender hovering on the horizon is the recently appointed Foreign Minister, Ariel Sharon, at 70 another old soldier, who said enigmatically on Monday that "if the circumstances were right" he would not rule himself out. Mr Sharon is keeping his powder dry in case Mr Netanyahu's campaign falls apart.





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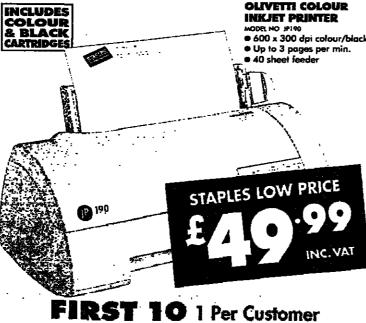
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Balloon to circle globe at 130,000ft

yet to circle the world in a balloon is due to lift off from here this evening, London time.

The joint American-Australian mission will follow the Tropic of Capricorn at a cruising altitude of 130,000ft. about 25 miles. The three pilots, a reporter, an estate agent and a professional balloonist from Wiltshire, will wear space suits nauts as their flight takes them

to the edge of space. John Wallington, the balloonist, who emigrated to Australia at the age of 10. said: "A lot of people say, 'You're absolutely crazy', but if I said I didn't want to do it there would be a queue of people waiting to

take my place.' The mission's technology is based on Nasa weather bai-

THE MOST innovative attempt By JAKE LYNCH in Alice Springs

> loons which, from the Sixties, were launched into the stratosphere from Alice Springs.

The high-altitude attempt will avoid the capricious atmospheric airflows that ended previous bids, including

Richard Branson's last week. Mission controller Dan Peden, who founded the f "Top Gun" academy for US fighter pilots, came on board because "this is the last great

adventure in aviation". The idea was hatched five years ago by Bob Martin, a television science reporter from New Mexico. He will make the attempt with Mr Wallingt and Dave Liniger, chairman of Remax International, the world's biggest estate agent.

China arrests another high-profile dissident

CHINA'S BIGGEST crackdown on dissidents for three years is likely to claim another highprofile victim. Wang Ce. a leader of the Alliance of Democratic Parties, which is based abroad.

Mr Wang, 50, was granted political asylum in Spain but lives in the US and smuggled himself back into China. He has been charged with endangering state security, providing finance for criminal acts and entering the country illegally. The charges carry a maximum sentence of life imprisonment.

BY STEPHEN VINES in Hong Kong

Mr Wang was arrested after visiting Wang Youcai, one of the leaders of the China Democ racy Party, which has been the focus of the dissident round-up. Last week Wang Youcai was given an 11-year sentence for his role in establishing an opposition party:

Although tiny, the new opposition party has alarmed the Peking authorities because it appears to have a nationwide base.



First National Bank Plc

BASE RATE

First National Bank Plc

OUR BASE LENDING RATE "BASE RATE" IS REDUCED FROM 11.5% то 11.0% WITH EFFECT FROM IST JANUARY 1999

First National Varid Dr. First National House College Road, Harrow, Middle ee, HATHIT, T. lephone, C181-861 1313.



Children of inmates at a Russian women's prison are given toys by the Minister of Justice, Pavel Krasheninnikov, during a new year party yesterday. The children are staying with their mothers at the prison, near Mozhaisk, 60 miles west of Moscow

AP

Home movie moves Russia

RUSSIAN TELEVISION, like its BY HELEN WOMACK British counterpart, shows many repeats of comedies that were hardly funny in the first place. Moscow's video kiosks, meanwhile, offer little more than pirate copies of American kick-boxing and gangster

But Russians are raving about one new film and they are proud of the fact that, despite the decline of their cinema industry, it was made in Moscow.

Land of the Deaf appeared n the big screen earlier this year and won several awards in Russia. It was directed by Valery Todorovsky, a young man whose humanity and faith prove not everyone is bad or mad and not all is lost in this country that produces so much

in Moscow

Rita. who manages to run away when Russian gangsters capture her boyfriend, Alyosha, and torture him for nonpayment of a debt. Rita is befriended by a deaf girl called Yaya, who has also suffered at the hands of brutal men. In her strange sign language and broken speech, Yaya tells Rita that somewhere, far away, there is a beautiful "land of the deaf" where they can find peace and happiness.

Rita is drawn back to her boyfriend, who belongs to the world of violence. By experimenting as a prostitute, then by working as a "translator" for a deaf gangster, she manages to raise enough

but her good-for-nothing boyfriend loses it all gambling.

The film ends with a shootout between the deaf gangster's gang and the bandits holding Alyosha. Rita either loses her hearing from the noise of gunfire or chooses to seem deaf, and finally accepts Yaya's invitation of asylum in the land of the deaf.

Escaping in this way appears to mean rejecting the horror and violence of modern Russia, where mafia crime has made life cheap. "The land of the deaf could also be the inner self, the life of the spirit," said Todorovsky in an interview. "But if you choose to take it that way, I won't argue with you."

Land of the Deaf was made on a relatively small budget. money to pay off Alyosha's debt on a boat that is normally a everything is over," he said.

floating restaurant on the Moscow River. Todorovsky's private company, Racoonfilm, rents office space at Mosfilm, the rambling, old state complex that in better times used to be Russia's

After making Land of the Deaf, his third big movie, Todorovsky, 36, son of the director Pyotr Todorovsky, was feeling optimistic about the chances for a revival of Russian cinema. Then the economic crisis struck. *Cinema needs stability. It

answer to Hollywood

takes at least a year to make a film and you need audiences with money in their pockets to enjoy it. Now, it seems we are back at square one. Yet, I remain an optimist. I love my profession. Much of the action takes place I cannot live with the feeling that

For the time being, he is surviving by making films for television, based on the detective novels of Alexandra Marinina, a policewoman turned popular thriller writer.

He rejects the idea of emigrating, as he says a filmmaker needs to work in his own language. Yet he loves foreign cinema, especially British

Todorovsky first made his name with a 1991 movie called Love about a romance between a Russian boy and a Jewish girl. With anti-Semitism on the rise in Russia and a growing neofascist movement, this could not be more relevant. For Todorovsky, differences of race and creed are unimportant and there are only two nationalities: those who hate and

A city becoming less Orthodox every day

FRONTLINE ISTANBUL

Greeks have moved to the sub-

"Fener has become an en-

clave of fundamentalist Mus-

lims," Fr Tarasios says.

"Sometimes they walk past

the Patriarchate, shaking

their fists. They throw rubbish

Patriarch stays in Istanbul

and doesn't move to Greece.

Fr Tarasios: Greeks feel

like second-class citizens

People don't realise how long

we've been here - far longer

church was established in the

city AD36 by St Andrew, one of

the 12 Apostles. The Ottoman

Turks did not gain control of

in Istanbul with English as a

first language. Fr Tarasios

does a lot of translation work.

In the afternoons he takes vis-

itors on tours of the churches

in Fener. Before leaving the

Patriarchate, he must change

into a suit. Under Turkey's

secular constitution, religious

At St Dimitrios, a beautiful

dress is forbidden in public.

As the only Orthodox priest

The Patriarchate claims the

than the Turks."

the city until 1453.

"I'm often asked why the

into the courtyard.

Greek quarter.

IT IS Ramadan in Istanbul and the Islamic call to prayer echoes over the city. But on Sunday mornings, mingled with the Arabic chanting, the sound of church bells can be heard. In the middle of this sprawling city of more than 10 million Muslims, the Patriarch of Constantinople is celebrating Holy Communion. as his predecessors have done for almost 2,000 years.

The Patriarch is usually assisted by his two deacons. One of them, Father Tarasios, preaches in Greek but his first language is English.

"I grew up in Texas. One day I'm going to write a book and call it A Texan in Constantinople," he laughs. His grandparents emigrated from Greece to the United States, where Fr Tarasios became an Orthodox priest. "People ask me why I came here. In the US I had everything: my own house, a nice car. But what I didn't have was to be at the centre of Orthodoxy. Now I've become a part of everything I read about."

The Patriarch of Constantinople is the spiritual head of the world's Orthodox churches. But while he is spiritual leader to nearly 300 million Christians worldwide, today the Patriarch's own diocese of Greek Christians in Istanbul has dwindled to only 3,000.

Istanbul was once legendary for its mix of races and Greeks still call it by its old Greek name, Constantinople. But today the Greeks are leaving. "We don't even have enough people left to look after the churches," says Fr Tarasios. "I wish they'd stay, but I understand why they don't. They feel like secondclass citizens here. They even have to be quiet speaking Greek in the streets, in case they offend somebody."

Fr Tarasios lives and works old church full of valuable in the Patriarchate complex in icons, only four services are

the Fener, or Phanar, district held a year. "There aren't of the old city, the historic enough priests to hold any more," he says. "There are only 50 priests left in Istanbul." Now the few remaining

As we arrive at another church, two Muslim women urbs. Only priests remain. shyly leave. They have come to drink Holy Water from the church, which is believed to cure infertility.

"Lots of Muslims come like this," says Fr Tarasios. "Newly wed couples come to the priests for a blessing, they believe it's more powerful than a blessing from an imam. You could say it's just superstition, but it shows they re aware of the Christian faith.'

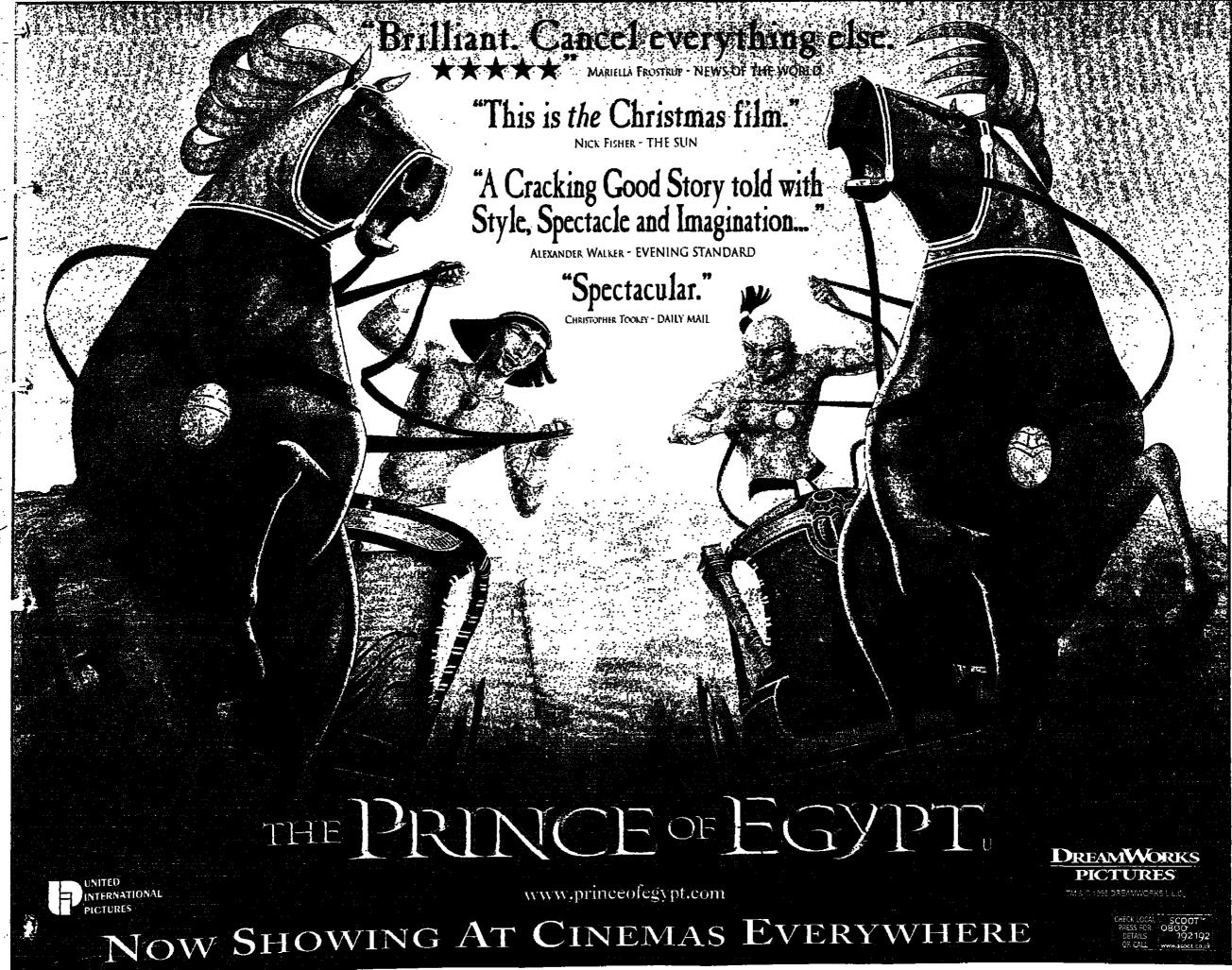
Fr Tarasios calls on Father Vassileios, the priest responsible for the churches in this area. There are no parishioners left and, of the services Fr Vassileios holds, most are

The Turkish authorities are causing problems for the Patriarchate. They closed down Turkey's only Orthodox theological school in 1971. "Without the theological school we can't train priests from the community here." Fr Tarasios says. "How will we train future Patriarchs?" Under Turkish law the Patriarch must be a Turkish citizen.

At Christmas the Patriarch's cathedral was full. Before the Ottoman conquest the domed church of Hagia Sophia was the Patriarch's cathedral, but today the Patriarch has a new, smaller cathedral in Fener. Exchanging of gifts takes place on St Basil's Day 1 January.

The last Greek families of Istanbul will start the day by dividing the new year's bread. a giant loaf. Slices will be cut for Christ, the Virgin Mary, for St Basil and for the Patriarch. Then the bread will be shared out. But every year. there are fewer Greeks left in Istanbul to share it.

JUSTIN HUGGLER



BUSINESS

BRIEFING

Chandler to replace Hambro at GRE

LORD HAMBRO, the chairman of Guardian Royal Exchange, yesterday said that he would step down in April 1999 and be replaced by Sir Colin Chandler, currently a non-executive director of the insurance company, which put itself up for sale in November. Lord Hambro, who has been a member of the board since 1968, and chairman since 1988, said that he was sad to be leaving the company after 30 years. "I know that I will be leaving it in good hands. Sir Colin has made a significant contribution to the group."

Duisenberg says he won't retire



WIM DUISENBERG, the controversial president of the European Central Bank, yesterday dasbed France's expectations that he would step down halfway through his eightyear term of office. At the time of his

appointment last May Mr Duisenberg said he did not wish to serve out the full term, in a move seen as a compromise with France.

To the annoyance of other countries, it had been pushing its own candidate for the job.

However, he has never confirmed the French interpretation, and when asked whether he intended to leave after four years, the outspoken Dutchman told Le Monde, in an interview published today ahead of the launch of the euro: "I had hoped you would not ask this question. The answer is no." Separately, Mr Duisenberg said yesterday that no change in euro interest rates should be expected soon. All participating countries have reduced their key interest rates to 3 per cent during the past month.

Fast-food giants plan opening spree BURGER KING and US giant McDonald's yesterday unveiled

plans to accelerate their expansion programmes in 1999. Burger King, the fast-food arm of Diageo, the food and drinks conglomerate, plans to open 100 new outlets and create 3,500 new full and part-time jobs in 1999, compared with 70 new branches and 2,500 new jobs in 1998.

McDonald's, the market leader in the UK industry, said it had opened just under 100 outlets in 1998 and plans to open 100 more outlets next year. McDonald's, which will celebrate its 25th anniversary in the UK in 1999, said it would invest £100m, creating 5,000 jobs and bringing its national total to just over 1,000 outlets and 60,000 jobs.

STO	CK MARK	ETS
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ĺ	5920	9300	13800					
	5580	9240	13750					
	5840 T F M T W	9180	13700 V					
ı	TFMTW	TFMTW	TFMTW					
ı	Dow Jones Index and graph at 5pm							
ı		INDICES						

Index	Close	Change	Change(%)	52 wk high :	52 wk low Yi	eld (%)		
FTSE 100	5882.60	-58.90	-0,99	6183,70	4599.20	3.20		
FTSE 250	4854.70	11.20	0,23	5970.90	4247.60	4.76		
FTSE 350	2772.40	-22.40	-0,80	2969.10	2210.40	3.43		
FTSE All Share	2673.92	-20.06	-0. <u>75</u>	2886.52	2143.53	3.48		
FTSE SmallCap	2070.90	9.20	0.45	2793.80	1834,40	4.06		
FTSE Fledgling	1146.40	2.90	0.25	1517.10	1046.20	0.00		
FTSE AIM	801.60	4.30	0.54	1146.90	761.30	0.00		
FTSE EBLOC 100	998.29	2.35	-0.24					
Dow Jones	9302.44	-18.02	-0.19	9380.20	7400.30	1,61		
Nikkei	13842.17	-4.73	-0.03	17352.95	12787,90	7.06		
Hang Seng	10121.44	-104 5	-1.02	11926.16	6544.79	3.08		

INTEREST RATES

SHORT STERLING	UK 10 YEAR GILT	US LONG BOND		
5.57	4.46 — [5.30		
5.55	9.42	5.20		
5 53	4.38	5.10		
5.51	434	500		
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		at Sm		

W	MONEY MARKET RATES						BOND YIELDS			
Index	3 month	Yr cheg	1 Year	Yr chg	10 year	Yr chg	Long bond	Yr chg		
UK	6.28	-1.40	5 65	-2.04	4.36	-1.97	4.27	-2.01		
US	5 08	-0.74	5 12	-0.84	4 65		5.09			
Japan	0.52	-0.26	0 58	-0.16	2 22	0.27	2.97	0.40		
Corner.	2 22	0.43	3.30							

CURRENCIES									
Germany	3.22	-0.42	3.20	-0.73	3.86	-1.51	4.78	-1.19	
Japan	0.52	-0.26	0 58	-0.16	2 22	0.27	2.97	0.40	
<u>US</u>	5 08	-0.74	5 12	-0.84	4 65		5.09		

[F M	<u> </u>	T F	M T	W	T F M	T. W	
	PO	UND			DOI	LLAR		
l	at 5pm	Change	Yr Ago		at Spep	Change	Yr Ago	
Dollar	1,6613	-2.26¢	1.6451	Sterling	0.6013	+0.81p	0.6078	
D-Mark	2.7937	-7.84pf	2,9743	D-Mark	1.6830	+ 1.35pf	1.7987	
Yen	191.32	-¥3.05	215.94	Yen	114.90	-W-0 48	130 58	

£ index 100.40 -0.80 104.80 \$ index 104.70 -0.10

OTHER INDICATORS

Brent Oil (\$) 10.32 -0.24 16.19 GDP 115.40 3.00 112.04 Dec Gold (\$) 286.95 0.85 290.35 RPI 164.40 3.00 159.61 Dec Silver (\$) 5.03 0.12 6.20 Base Rates 6.25 7.25		Close	Chg	Yr Ago		Index	Chg	Yr ago	Next figs
	Brent Oil ((S) 10.32	-0.24	16.19	GDP	115.40	3.00	112.04	Dec
Silver (S) 5.03 0.12 6.20 Base Rates 6.25 7.25	Gold (\$)	286.95	0.85	290,35	RPI	164,40	3.00	159 61	Dec
1-,	Silver (S)	5.03	0.12	6.20	Base	Rates	6.25	7.25	

SOURCE: BLOOMBERG www.bloomberg.com/uk

TOURIST RATES

Australia (5)	_ 2.6493
Austria (schillings)	19.13
Belgium (francs)	56.26
Canada (\$)	2.5375
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8048
Denmark (krone)	10.43
Finland (markka)	8.3053
France (francs)	9.1352
Germany (marks)	2.7362
Greece (drachma)	458.85
Hong Kong (\$)	12.61
Ireland (punts)	1.0946
Indian (rupees)	64.18
israel (shekels)	6.4941
Italy (lira)	2711
Japan (yen)	189.63
Malaysia (ringgits)	6.1169
Males /lies)	0.6110

Mexican (nuevo peso)	14.91
Netherlands (guilders)	3.0678
New Zealand (S)	3.0661
Norway (krone)	12.34
Portugal (escudos)	278.08
Saudi Arabia (rials)	6.1173
Singapore (\$)	2.6586
Spain (pesetas)	231.60
South Africa (rands)	9.4978
Sweden (krone)	13.27
Switzerland (francs)	2.2346
Thailand (bahts)	56,39
Turkey (lirasi)	507854
USA (\$)	1.6399
Rates for indication purpo	ses only

Source Thomas Cook

London dealer named in Griffin futures collapse

cial Services Authority, the City watchdog, yesterday took charge of Griffin Trading, the troubled futures clearing agent, as it emerged that the trader whose losses caused the firm's former Credit Suisse First Boston futures dealer who operated independently out of Griffin's City premises. The FSA said yesterday it has

issued intervention orders against Griffin, the Londonbased offshoot of a well-known Chicago trading house, and a related firm GLH (Derivatives) Ltd. which acted as a corporate vehicle for a number of independent futures traders including Mr Park. It will now seek the orderly winddown of the two firms.

The Independent has learned that Mr Park, a wealthy Korean, known in the futures market by the nickname "Chinkie John". ran into difficulty last week when he lost £6.25m on German government bond (Bund) futures after the market unexpectedly turned against him. He was unable to meet margin calls.

Mr Park, who is believed to be in his mid-20s, has been operating as an independent trader using Griffin's City premises since last March. He is said to be seeking to put his London house and his car up for sale to meet his obligations after being told by his father, a wealthy businessman, that he cannot access an \$18m trust fund to repay his debts. Mr Park was not returning

phone calls yesterday. GLH has a telephone number listed with the FSA in Colchester, Essex, but the line has been disconnected. Griffin was declared in default by the London International Fi-

OFFICIALS FROM the Finan- By ANDREW GARFIELD Financial Editor

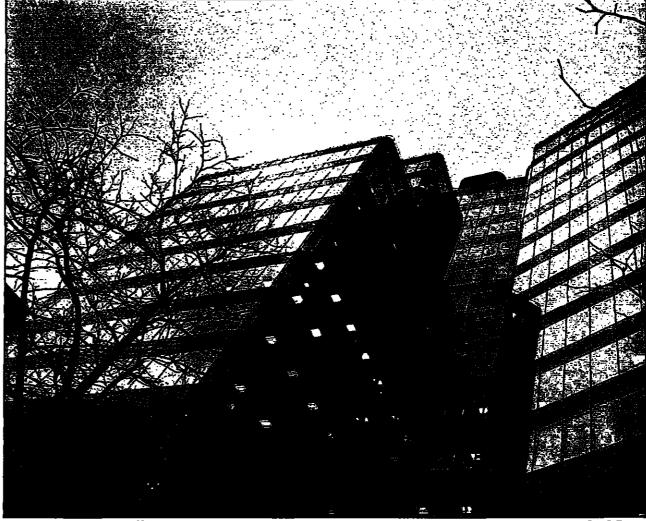
nancial Futures and Options Exchange (Liffe) on Christmas Eve after discovering it had insufficient funds to cover losses difficulties was John Park, a run up by Mr Park in dealings on the German futures exchange, the DTB. Griffin acted as a clearing house, or inter-mediary, for Mr Park Normally he should have had enough money on deposit with the firm to cover potential losses.

Steve Rose, the managing director of Griffin in London, has told clients that Mr Park had £1m on deposit with Griffin. One client said that according to Mr Rose, as of the evening of 21 December, Griffia was aware that Mr Park had a potentially lossmaking position in German March Bund futures. However, as far as the firm

was aware Mr Park had bought only 950 "lots". Lots are the units in which the contracts are traditionally traded. Then at 10.30am on 22 December, Griffin was contacted by another broker, Tullet & Tokyo, which requested settlement for a further 8000 DTB futures lots held in Mr Park's name. Although Griffin could have seized the contracts and sold them in the market with a smaller loss, it did not. By late afternoon, the word was out that someone was in trouble, compounding its difficulty in disposing of the contracts.

he was unable to confirm or deny the account of the events which have led the firm into default. He referred all calls to the head office in Chicago. The firm's lawyers Mayer, Brown & Platt, were not available for comment.

Mr Rose said yesterday that



The FSA, whose new offices are pictured above, yesterday took charge of Griffin Trading

which its business is subject: have been hit by the collapse.

yesterday: "Both Griffin and GLH have been unable to meet substantial margin calls arising from GLH's trading. Accordingly GLH has failed to maintain adequate financial resources to meet its business commitments The FSA said in a statement and to withstand the risks to

Griffin has failed to maintain sufficient funds in its segregated client money requirements."

client bank accounts to meet its Some 80 sole traders, known in the market as locals, who also

They have been told by the SFA they are unlikely to get their money back in full, although they could get up to 90 per cent back. Matters have been comused Griffin as a clearing house

that also acted as broker for some of Griffin's clients, is refusing to hand back £2m it received from Griffin which traders claim was in a segregated account and is therefore plicated by the fact that theirs. MeesPierson said it was MeesPierson, the Dutch bank was unable to comment.

3.60 3.56

3.40 3.32 3.28

3.00 2.52 2.12 2.08 2.04

2.52

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Erondon

Arnault quits iageo board

THE ANNOUNCEMENT yester- By JOHN WILLCOCK day by Bernard Arnault, chairman of Moet Hennessy Louis Virition (LVMH), that he was resigning from the board of Diageo prompted a flurry of speculation that the French luxury goods group would now cut its 11 per cent stake in the British food and drinks giant.

Mr Arnault has repeatedly said the LVMH holding in Diageo is not a core long-term holding ever since he tried to block the £24bn Guinness-Grand Metropolitan merger in October 1997.

However, the share price of the fast food, wine, spirits and beer group has done well, so there has been little pressure on Mr Arnault to sell, say sources said it would not be providing a the company."

close to the French group. Diageo's shares rose from around 550p in January to a high of 778.5p in the summer before the Asian turmoil and the strong pound forced them down to a low of 480.5p in October Yesterday the shares finished 21p down at 684p.

Analysts said this was still well above the 630p Mr Arnault paid for around half his stake in Diageo. He extracted £250m in cash in return for his agreement to the merger, as well as £250m in dividends and £300m in cost

LVMH's shares fell 7 francs

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

euro next week.

in North Kent.

sult from the introduction of the

At the same time, Alfred

McAlpine's Civil Engineering di-

vision said yesterday it had

been awarded an £80m contract

in a joint venture with Amec to

nel Rail Link, covering the sec-

tion from the west bank of the

Medway to Fawkham Junction

& Continental Railways will

build the entire link. Railtrack

is set to buy the first section of

the link for £1.5bn when it is

completed in 2003, and has an

option to buy the second section

unconditionally guaranteed by

of a revamped public-private

partnership plan unveiled in

The original plan fell apart at

the beginning of the year after

The bonds will be fully and

A consortium titled London

replacement for Mr Arnault on the Diageo board, although it regards the trading joint venture between Diageo's wine subsidiary UDV and Moet Hennessy as a success.

A spokeswoman for Diageo said there were no plans for the UK group to cut its own 34 per cent holding in Moet Hennessy, even if Mr Arnault did reduce his stake in Diageo. The link with Moët Hennessy had gone "from strength to strength since the creation of Diageo", she said. Mr Arnault said he was leav-

ing "due to pressure of other commitments". He added: "I should like to emphasise that I fully support the way in which yesterday to Fir1,078. LVMH the Diageo board are managing

Link launches BP/Amoco bond funding

THE GROUP behind the muchdelayed Channel Tunnel Rail Link is about to start raising funds for the project with the biggest ever loan of sterling outside the gilt market. However, a number of regulatory hurdles are due to be cleared first.

Construction of the first half build part of the Channel Tunof the 68-mile rail link will be financed by the issue of £2.65bn of bonds guaranteed by the British Government in either two or three tranches. Another £1.1bn, also backed

by the Government, will be raised later to pay for the construction of the second section, from North Kent to St Pancras in London.

The joint managers of the giant bond issues, Warburg Dillon Read and HSBC Markets, have yet to make a final decision on when the issues will go the British Government as part ahead, and how the bonds will be structured.

They have already obtained .Tune. clearance from European Union authorities concerning John Prescott, the Deputy state aid regulations. The managers are keen, however to Prime Minister, rejected a reavoid any turbulence in the quest by LCR for an extra bond markets which might re- \$1.2bn of public money.

deal gets go-ahead

BY SIMON DUKE

THE US Federal Trade Commission yesterday gave a con-ditional green light to the merger between British Petroleum and Amoco Corporation.

The deal, which will create the largest company in the UK, is expected to be concluded imminently. The new company, to be called BP-Amoco, will also be the third largest oil company behind Exxon and Royal Dutch/Shell,

With a market capitalisation in excess of \$140bn (£84bn), it will constitute between 7 and 8 per cent of the FTSE100 index, The merger is conditional on

the two companies disposing of 134 gas stations and nine petroleum storage terminals within the next six months. They must also allow 1,600 independently-owned stations to change their gas brands.

"Although the merger of BP/Amoco involves companies of great size, the operations of these two companies rarely overlap in a way that threatens competition," said Robert Pitofsky, commission chairman.

NEW INVESTMENT RATES

Ei	fective	e from	3 January 1999	
ANNUAL RATES	Gross to put."	Notice paint	MONTHLY RATES	Films
One Year Variable Rate Bond (Issue I)	ė.		First Post Plos	\Box
One Year Variable Rate Bond By Post (lsuz I)	1 1	£25.000 - £250,000	3.75
£50,000 - £250,000	6.55	5.24	£10,000 - £24,999.99	3.15
£25,000 - £49,999 99	6.50	5.20	4 1 1 1 1	
£10,000 - £24,999,99	6.45	5.16	Scarborough First Post*	1
£1.000 - £9,999.99	6.40	Į 5.12 (£25,000 · £250,000	3.75
C	1		£10,000 - £24,999.99	3.15
Scarborough 30 & 30 By Post*		l I	£5,000 - £9,999.99	2.40
£50.000 - £250.000	5.55	4.44	£100 - £4,999.99	2.00
£25,000 - £49,999,99	5.50	4.40		
£10,000 - £24 999,99	5.45	4.36	CLOSED ISSUES	
£1,000 - £9,999.99 £100 - £999.99	5.40 5.00	4.32		
2100 - 2999.99	3,00	4.00	ANNUAL RATES	Gross - p
Scarborough Standard	1	1 1	Scarborough 120 & 120 By Post	
£25.000 - £250,000	3.90	3.12	(35 Days Notice)	ł
£10,000 - £24,999.99	3.30	2.64	£50,000 - £250,000	6.05
£5,000 - £9,999.99	2.55	2.04	£25,000 - £49,999,99	5.75
£100 - £4,999,99	2.15	1.72	£10,000 - £24,999,99	5.60
Keepsale Savings Bond & By Post†	5.60	4.48	£5,000 - £9,999.99	5 50
Supersaver (rates include a 1%	 		Instant Access By Post	
eross interest bonus)††	1 1	i i	£1,000 - £250,000	3.65
25,000 - £250,000	4.15	3.32		
10.000 · £24,999.99	3.55	1.84	Keepsafe Bonus Interest	ł
5,000 - £9,999.99	2.80	2.24	£2,500 - £250,000	4.55
10 - £4,999,99	2.40	1.92	£1,000 - £2,499 99	4.50
			£15 - £999.99	4.45
oung Supersaver 1.000 - £10.000	4.35	3.48	Scarborough 100 Instant Access	
2500 - £1999 99	3.65	2.92	& 100 Instant Access By Post	
250 - 1499,99	3.05	2.52	£50,000 - £250,000	450
100 - 2249.99	215	1.72	£5,000 - £49,999 qq	4.40
10 - 199.99	1.35	1.08	£1,000 - £4,999,99	4.35
	1.55	1.00		7.27
ecpsafe Instant Access†		[Scarborough 75 Instant Access	
2,500 - £250,000	3.80	3.04	& 75 Instant Access By Post	
1,000 - £2,499,99	3 75	3.00	£25,000 - £250,000	3.90
15 - £999.99	3.70	2.96	£10,000 - £24,999,99	3.30
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حكذا من الاحل

Is there gain in the City's euro pain?

don hard in certain markets, par-

ticularly German bond based

derivatives. Are Frankfurt, Paris and

Milan really going to allow what

would in effect become an offshore

centre to dominate markets in their

Lord Levene is adamant that Eu-

own single currency?

THE CITY is fully prepared, or so it believes. Over the next week we'll find out just how far this is true. What is certainly the case is that though many British businesses may still be refusing to acknowledge the seismic shift about to occur within the European economy, in the high octane driven world of the City's financial markets, hundreds of millions have already been spent on adapting IT and trading systems for the advent of the euro.

investment and commercial banking, the two parts of the financial services industry most immediately affected by the launch of the new currency, have planned for conversion weekend" in meticulous detail. From securities custody, through currency trading, how to deal with fractions and unmarketable units, to the most complicated of customised derivative

instruments. the City is ready. Thousands will see in the New Year in anxious sobriety - at their desks attempting to grapple with the closing exchange rates at which currencies will from tomorrow lock into the euro. Many IT and trading specialists will continue working through the weekend, testing and adapting their systems for lastminute glitches. Getting it right will give competitive edge over those who don't and could make the difference between big profits and losses.



It is unrealistic to think London would not be discriminated against as an abstainer from the euro

Given the City's position as the world's biggest and most successful international financial centre, it would perhaps be surprising if the City were in anything other than a state of high preparedness. Over the past 15 years, the Square Mile has changed out of all recognition. The closed shop of largely domestic firms and partnerships it once was has been transformed into an open market place for international capital; it has become the location of choice for international bankers and securities traders everywhere.

Virtually every complicated Eu-

ropean banking transaction of im- would therefore be disastrous. In cess as a reserve currency will be as a general deterrent to foreign portance now takes place through London, and its markets-from for-might be regarded as a serious eign exchange to debt and futures - dominate the European time

So being prepared comes with the territory. The bigger question is opportunity to pursue profitable not so much whether London is practically capable of meeting the challenge of the euro – that scarcely seems in doubt; initially, at least. the City looks destined to dominate the euro markets. Rather it is whether the Square Mile can hope to maintain this pre-eminent position if Britain stays out of the single currency.

For Peter Levene, Lord Mayor of London, and to the extent that there is one, titular head of the City, there is no doubt that it can. Financial and business services such as IT, accountancy consultancy and legal work now account for in excess of a quarter of the UK economy, and the City is a large part of that.

Quite apart from this vital position in the national economy, the wealth generated in the City has become core to the vitality and economic health of the capital, helping to sustain its vibrant arts scene, its property markets, its restaurants and a whole panoply of other service industries and jobs.

The consequences of losing out because of the launch of the euro Key to the single currency's suc-

Ner p.a. 3.92% 3.60% 3.12%

4.90% 4.50% 3.90% 3.50%

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£1 – £499

this sense, the single currency the development of an integrated debt, or bond, market, both nationthreat to the City. If your business al and corporate. All the indications is commission driven, it is obviousare that the City will dominate this ly more lucrative to deal in 11 cureurobond market in the early years, rencies than just one. The but will it remain that way?

Already there are warning signs. trading strategies is also that much The very location in Frankfurt of the European Central Bank will in itself More importantly, rival Euroact as a powerful magnet for marpean financial centres have always kets. Physical proximity to policy looked jealously over the Channel makers still seems to matter in marat their bigger London counterkets, even though advanced IT syspart, and in recent years, Frankfurt tems render it unnecessary. in particular has been chasing Lon-

More worrying, Brussels seems intent on removing some of the City's present competitive tax advantages. The most serious immediate threat is posed by the planned imposition of a 20 per cent withholding tax on income from bonds.

On the face of it, this would seem a quite innocuous piece of anti-evarope needs the City as much as the sion tax harmonisation. All countries have withholding taxes, the deduc-City needs Europe. If the euro is to survive and prosper as a powerful tion of tax at source, in some shape reserve currency capable of looking or form. In this country, employers pay salary net of income tax. Inthe dollar in the face and attracting cheap foreign capital in the same terest on building society accounts way as the US does, it needs to deis also paid net of basic rate tax.

velop deep and liquid capital mar-Non taxpayers then reclaim the kets. The City is uniquely placed to tax from the Revenue at a later offer these markets, more so than stage. However, to impose it on any other centre, and to act as a conbonds might cause these markets duit for foreign capital into Euto shift offshore to rival international centres where bonds could be traded gross, as well as acting

capital.

Certainly, when such a tax was imposed in the US it caused a large part of the bond market to shift offshore. The euro dollar market was born. A large part of the City's present success is based on this single act of tax lunacy, since it persuaded many US investment banks to set up operations here in London and helped generate the critical mass of foreign interest and trading to push the City into the super league of financial centres.

At present, the planned scope of the tax is limited to individuals - or only about 10 per cent of the total Euroland bond market - but there are proposals from a group of MEPs to extend it to companies as well. Tony Blair, the Prime Minister, has vowed to use Britain's veto to block the move and there is good reason to believe that Brussels might eventually accept the Corporation of London's case. If the effect was to cause a general flight of capital from Europe, that would plainly be bad for everyone, not just the City.

All the same, many see in these proposals a harbinger of things to come. Brussels and its Continental masters might seek to punish the City for being outside the euro. If Britain joins the single currency within a relatively short period of time, then the City can realistical-

ly nope to retain its position as Europe's leading international centre. if it does not, then its chances would seem remote, notwithstanding Lord Levene's protestations to

the contrary. It is not realistic to think that Britain and the City would not in some way be discriminated against as long-term abstainers from the single currency, or that the integrated debt market so vital to the new currency's sustained health could tolerably be based outside Euroland. That would not be dissimilar to allowing the gilts market to be

run out of the Bahamas. If, on the other hand, the euro is a failure, then all bets are off. London would be left as the default centre of choice and in prime position to pick up the pieces. Already there are signs of capital flight from Euroland, albeit quite limited in scope. The extent to which that process gathers pace depends crucially on what type of single currency the

Will it be a liberalising, free market force across Europe, or will it mark the onset of ever greater centralised regulation, including centrally imposed tax harmonisation. That debate is only just beginning. The City has a powerful vested interest in making it the former, but it cannot do so if Britain remains

CBI chief hits out at Eurosceptics

THE CONFEDERATION of BY BARRIE CLEMENT British Industry president yesterday cast aside the Euroscepticism of some of his senior colleagues when he called for Britain to become a key player in shaping the Eu-

In his New Year message, Sir Clive Thompson said that the next 12 months would be make or break for the UK in Europe.

"It is crucial for Britain to play a major role in shaping the final outcome of the EU. Standing on the sidelines, watching others make decisions that affect us, will achieve nothing."

The most important issue is the euro, which is launched to-+ morrow. "We will soon see if one interest rate does work for 11 of Britain's decision to stay out.

Those effects will be keenly felt by the business community. All this should contribute to a more grown-up debate about the single currency," Sir Clive said.

Britain needed to influence decisions over whether Europe would be entrepreneurial with labour market flexibility and high growth, or whether it would settle for low growth, high taxes and regulation, he said.

Britain's absence from the euro would mean a "painful year" for the economy, said John Monks, general secretary of the Trades Union Council.

"It is beginning to seem as if we have repeated the standard British error of coming too late countries, as well as the effect to Europe to secure the best deal possible," he said.

Derek Pain, page 21

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£2,000 - £4,999

New Banking and Savings Interest Rates from Nationwide

FROM 1ST JANUARY 1999 RATES FOR PERSONAL SAVERS

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NEW YORK

LONDON

WITH MOST traders on holiday, and no figures to keep the eight-day rally running, Wall Street stocks traded down slightly during the day, with telecoms shares the biggest

WORLD MARKETS

BLUE CHIPS ended the last trading day of the year looking cidedly ragged with Footsie down 58.9 points at 5,882.6. In largely technical trading, as investment houses attempted to square their books ahead of the launch of the euro, the index swung from an early 3.4 gain to a 132.5 loss before late buying cut the fall. Supporting shares bucked the trend, scoring modest gains. BICC, the cable and construction group, was the best performing 350 share, gaining 5.5p to 70.5p on expectations that takeover action will break out in the New

early afternoon trading, the benchmark Dow Jones in lex had fallen 0.4 per cent to 9,284, while the Nasdaq index was down 0.7 per cent to 2,166.

Stocks have moved up so dramatically that investors are beginning to realise that some large stocks have been overvalued," said one analyst.

⊕ |TOKYO

A SURGE in computer stocks and a slide in utility companies saw the Japanese benchmark Nikkei index close 5 points down

Kansai Electric Power, which provides electricity to the cities of Osaka and Kyoto, fell by 2 per cent as the yield on Japanese government bonds rose to 2.01 per cent, just under the yield implied by Kansai's last dividend payout.

Bond prices are collapsing, driving yields up, and the 2 ople who bought these stocks for yield are moving into t onds," said one analyst

FRANKFURT

GERMAN SHARES drifted slowly downards in light trading, with the DAX index closing 1 per cent lower at 5,006 on the last dealing session before the new year and the birth of

Telecoms shares continued to fall on concerns that an escalating price war in the German phone market would depress earnings.

Deutsche Telecom fell 2 per cent, while Mannesmann, the engineering company that owns Germany's largest mobile phone company, dropped 2.5 per cent.

HONG KONG

IN THIN TRADING, Hong Kong's benchmark Hang Seng index dropped 1 per cent to close at 10,121, with investors sitting on the sidelines ahead of the New Year holiday.

HSBC, the territory's largest company by market apitalisation, fell nearly 1 per cent, as investors do not expect proposed acquisition of the debt-laden Korea First Bank to rofitable for a number of years. Hong Kong Te ecommunications, the city's largest telephone company, fell 1.5 per cent, after a newspaper article suggested that the

ompany plans to cut international call rates.

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3.52% 3.20%

1.329n

4.40% 4.00%

3,30% 2,90%

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RATES FOR ACCOUNTS NO LONGER AVAILABLE TO NEW SAVERS															
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BonusBuilder	£25,000 + £10,000 - £24,999 £5,000 - £9,999 £500 - £4,999	4.60% 4.20% 4.00% 3.80%	4.60% 4.20% 4.00% 3.80%	3.68% 3.36% 3.20% 3.04%	4.10% 3.70% 3.50% 3.30%	4.10% 3.70% 3.50% 3.30%	3_28% 2.96% 1.80% 2.64%	Bonus 90	£20,000 + £10,000 - £19,999 £1 - £9,999	5.68% 5.37% 5.17%	5.60% 5.30% 5.10%	4.48% 4.24% 4.08%	5.17% 4.86% 4.65%	5.10% 4.80% 4.60%	4.08% 3.84% 3.68%

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Fun and games mark the end of '98

TRADING MAY have been thin but the stock market indulged in some unusual fun and games in a final mad 30 minutes on the last trading day of the year.

Footsie was down 98.7 points at mid-day. Just 12 minutes later the fall had been extended to 132.5 as, in futures led trading, investment houses endeavoured to end 1998 with their books square.

Yet by the close of the half-day session the decline had been reduced to 58.9 points at 5,882.6. The index had opened with a 3.4 gain.

Turnover was, for a shortened day's trading, a not unreasonable 188.2 million shares. Much of it occurred in the final stampede.

After the late rush to sell further weakened already depressed prices, buyers suddenly appeared with a series of programmes hitting the market.

When trading started there were hopes that Footsie would test the crucial 6,000 mark. But despite New York's overnight strength investors tended to sit on the sidelines. Once again price movements were exacerbated by the sheer lack of inMARKET REPORT

PAIN

vestment interest that is a tradi-

tional feature of the festive season. Many investment houses again relied on a skeleton staff with their major players away, leaving understudies minding the shop.

In the past, the day before New Year's Eve has been a full trading session with the last day of the year reduced to a lunchtime close. This time, because of the advent of the euro, the market is closed today, reopening on Monday.

During what has been an event-

ful year Footsie swung from an opening 5.135.5 to a peak 6.179 in June and then slumped to 4,647.7 in October before its rally in the past two months produced a year's gain

Hays topped the Footsie leader board with a 21.5p gain to 527.5p following the £35.3m acquisition of Axis Resources, an IT outsourcing group. Ronnie Frost, chairman of the business support group, said Hays planned to extend its IT outsourcing operations and he expected more deals next year.

Diageo, the wine and spirit giant, had a year-end hangover as Bernard Arnault, the French tycoon, quit, fermenting worries his LVMH is planning to sell its 10.84 cent shareholding. The shares fell 21p to 684p; about half the LVMH stake was acquired at an average of 630p as Mr Arnault sought to influence the Grand Metropolitan/Guinness merger which he op-

Diageo and LVMH still have close trading ties which should survive a reduction or complete sale of the stake. Mr. Arnault is known

to nurse ambitions to grow his luxury goods empire and would no doubt welcome the £2.5bn or so the share sale would produce.

Rexam, the packaging and paper group, firmed 7.5p to 169.5p

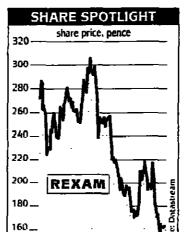
GREYCOAT, the property group, was the subject of brisk trading, with deals for just over 7 million shares and 710,000 of them going through at 165p. The price rose 3.5p to 172p. **Rival Wates City of London**

Properties is keen on arranging a merger with Greycoat, and there was speculation that it had lifted its 2.9 per cent stake in an attempt to bring further pressure on what appears to be a reluctant

although it admitted it is not in possession of all the information it would normally expect over its £380m Swedish takeover target.

Under Swedish law PLM is not

Monthly Saver



obliged to provide details which would be necessary in this country. Rexam, therefore, is proceeding on the basis of published information, its own commercial assessment and the knowledge of its chief executive Rolf Boerjesson, who was

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chief of PLM for six years. British Petroleum and its merg-

er partner Amoco have won the go -ahead from the US Federal Trade Commission. They will have to shed around 134 US garages and make it easier for some other petrol stations to switch to other

COULD SOTHEBY'S, the auction house, find itself under the hammer in the new year? The shares, a notoriously narrow market, are signalling corporate action: they rose 155p to 1,790p, a high. In October they were down to 965p and they have climbed

535p this month. The New York-based group, with a blue-blooded board, is headed and controlled by AA Taubman. It is renowned for its low stock market profile.

brands. BP fell 12p to 897.5p. Financials were weak with Barclays off 37p at 1,296p and National Westminster 35p at 1,159p.

BICC, the cable and construction group, jumped 5.5p to 70.5p,

it will be a New Year takeover target. Wassall, the acquisitive group that took over TGI, the old Thorn Lighting, in October, is stake building. It may be stretched to mount a bid, with BICC capitalised at around £300m, but its interest, it is thought, could provoke another party. Nine years ago BICC nudged 550p; the price was down to 38p be-

fore Wassall showed its hand. Smaller companies were to some extent helped by the KPMG suggestion that institutions, which often ignore the mid and small cap shares, should rethink their policy as many on the under card are now looking under valued. The mid cap index rose 11.2 points to 4.854.7 and

the small cap put on 9.2 to 2,070.9. Topps Tiles, planning a one-forone share split, slipped 10.5p to 226.5p. Moorfield, the property group, held at 165.5p. What looked like a fund-to-fund cross of just over 1 million shares went through at a little under the market price.

SEAQ VOLUME: 188.2 million SEAO TRADES: 26.310

• O'Reilly appointed press group MD

GAVIN O'REILLY has been appointed managing director of Independent Newspapers (Ireland), the biggest and most profitable part of the international newspaper group.

Mr O'Reilly, 32, is the son of Dr Tony O'Reilly, the group chairman. He succeeds David Palmer. who steps up to become chairman of Independent Newspapers (Ireland). Mr Palmer has also been appointed project director for the new printing facilities which Independent Newspapers will be building on the outskirts of

Mr O'Reilly (junior) will be joining the group executive committee along with Ivan Falion, chief executive of the group's South African interests, and Cameron O'Reilly, Chief executive of operations in

target for BAe merger

Dasa remains prime

BRITISH AEROSPACE is pressing ahead with talks aimed at clinching a £15bn merger with Dasa, the German defence giant, with a further link-up with GEC's defence electronics business Marconi, as a secondary target.

However, there were strong indications yesterday that the French defence group Thomson CSF is keen to link with GEC, a late entrant to the drive for consolidation in the European defence industry.

Negotiations aimed at that consolidation have been overshadowed by the political concerns of the countries in-Tony Blair, the Prime Min-

ister, has given his strong backing to an Anglo-German merger, whilst the French would also like to have a role.

Thomson CSF's overtures to GEC are seen by analysts as a serious threat to a deal be-

By JOHN WILLCOCK

tween BAe, Dasa and a Marconi division demerged from

The French stockmarket took the prospect of a link between GEC's Marconi and Thomson-CSF seriously yesterday, as Thomson's share price climbed nearly four percent in thin volume.

Thomson was up 3.98 per cent at 235 francs. The bluechip CAC-40 index was up 0.3 per cent at 3,903.07 at the time. Observers are also taking a

possible link between GEC and Lockheed Martin of the US seriously. Other parties talking to GEC include Northop Grumman of the US. The BAe/Dasa link up, if successful, is set to have a

British chief executive, with BAe's John Weston maintain-

director, will also remain in the

The new grouping will be run on typically continental lines with a revolving chairmanship, although a German is likely to have first go in the top job.

Sir Richard Evans, BAe's current chairman, will continue to have a role in the new

Ownership of the merged entity is still under intense negotiation.

It appears that Dasa will emerge as the single biggest unified shareholder with around 25 per cent to 30 per cent of the group, making Dasa's owner Daimler-Chrysler a key player in any further deals.

The rest will be spread between BAe's existing institutional investors. Dasa would have about a third of the seats George Rose, BAe's finance on the board.

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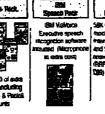


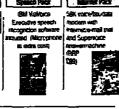


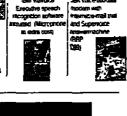














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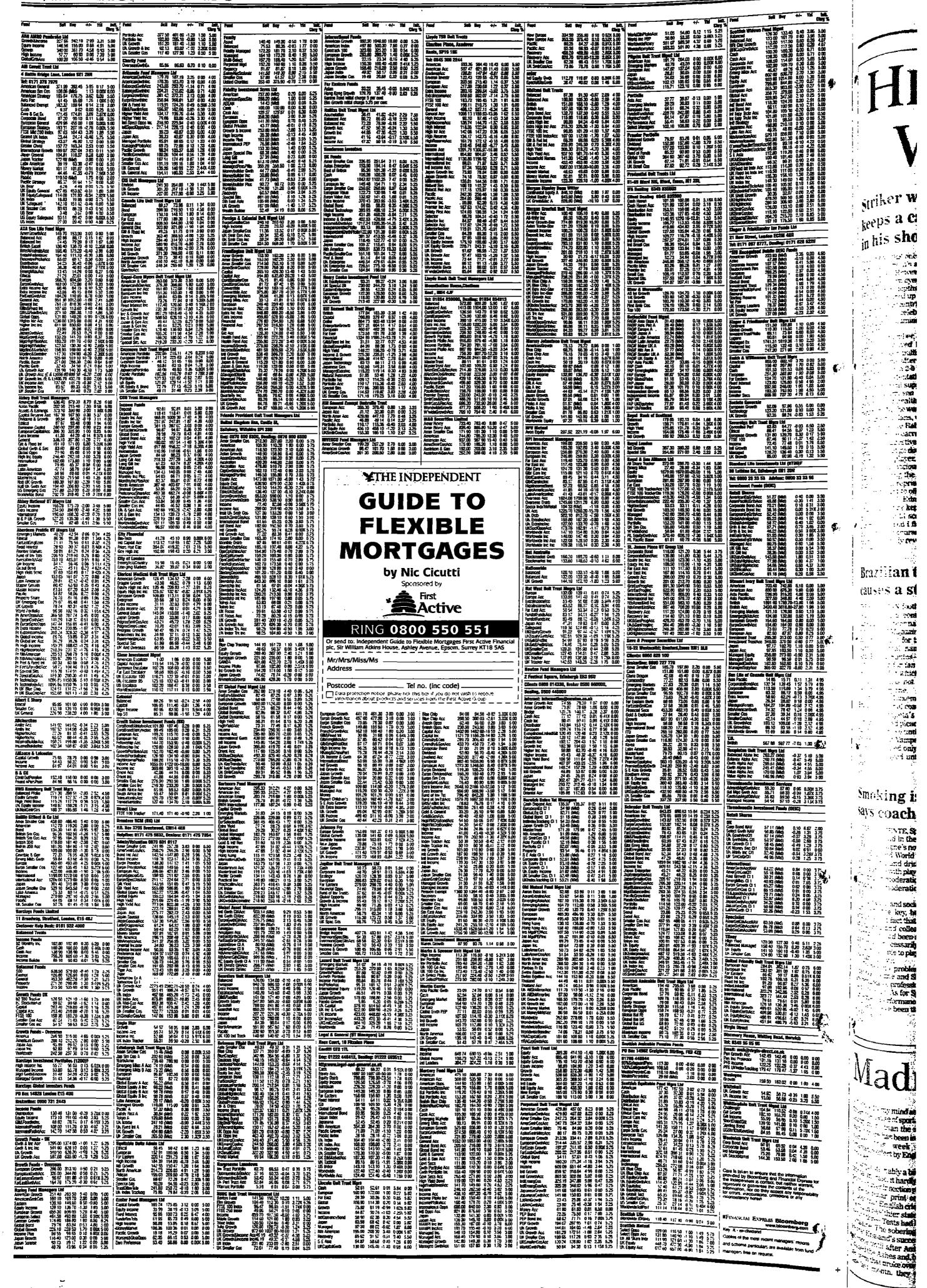
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SPORT

HEADLINES YOU THOUGHT YOU WOULD NEVER READ IN 1998

Striker who keeps a carrot in his shorts

CARROTS WERE once reputed to improve a person's ability to see in the dark. However, it takes more than sharp eyesight to penetrate the dim depths of the intellect that conjured up the latest in a long line of eccentric, not to say ludicrous, goal celebrations that have begun to illuminate Brazilian club football.

One little number, acted out by Edmilson, involved the Atletico Mineiro striker pulling a carrot from his shorts after scoring the opening goal in a 2-0 victory over America and ostentatiously eating it in front of rival supporters.

So was Edmilson showing off the benefits of healthy eating for sportsmen? No, he was making fun of the America fans, whose team are known as the Rabbits.

Whatever the carrot act did for Edmilson's digestive system, it certainly did not go down well with America. One player, Dinho, was sent off for a vicious tackle on Edmilson during the second half in an apparent reprisal.

"I didn't want to offend anyone with the joke." Edmilson said, explaining that he kept the carrot in his shorts until scoring in the 20th minute. "Did I find it revolting to eat it? Of course not. I don't find my own body revolting." September

Brazilian tackle causes a stir

THE BRAZILIAN footballer, Vampeta, sparked a controversy by agreeing to appear naked in a gay publication, G Magazine. "I am not gay, I'm doing it for the money." Vampeta – real name Marcos Andre Batista Santos - said, clearly not looking for fan mail. Vamwell with everyone.

Wanderley Luxemburgo, the Brazilian national coach and also coach at Vampeta's club side, Corinthians, had pleaded with his player not to pose until the end of the season, but Vampeta took the and asked only that publication be delayed until the New

Smoking is OK says coach

JAVIER CLEMENTE, Spain's World Cup coach, said in the aftermath of Paul Gascoigne's non-inclusion in the England World Cup squad that smoking and drinking could be compatible with playing football. Smoking, in moderation, yes. And drinking in moderation too," he

Moderation and social responsib. ity were the key, he said, and added that the fact that Gascoigne and his England colleague Teddy Sheringham had been seen smoking need not necessarily mean that they were unable to play football at the highest level.

"There's no problem, and besides Gascoigne and Sheringham are remarkable professionals on the field," he said. As for Spain's poor subsequent performance at France 98, it can't have been the fags and booze, can it?









peta's stunt, for which he will be Strange but true (clockwise from top left): The supercar that launched a journalist's brief golfiling career; Carrot man – Atletico Mineiro's vegetable-toting paid £60,000, has not gone down striker: Fred Done, the overconfident Manchester bookie; and the Mallorca goalposts that broke Hearts' hearts

Allsport/AP/Brian Williamson

BEFORE THE second leg of the

European Cup-Winners' Cup tie

against Mallorca, Hearts' officials

noticed the goalposts were un-

lower than the other a few yards

away. A verbal complaint was made to a Uefa delegate and the match went ahead. "We only agreed to play

because of our supporters and the

Hearts' chief executive, said. "The

goalposts have quite literally been

security issue," Chris Robinson,

The base of one post was 10cm

even due to a slope on the pitch.

Bookmaker pays out twice

FRED DONE, a Manchester Unitedsupporting bookmaker, was so pleased with his side's big lead in the Premiership that two months before the season finished he paid all the punters who had backed the Red Devils for the title at his 115 shops in the north and Wales.

Such generosity did not, at the time, seem misplaced as United were runaway leaders and Done's pay-out of around £50,000 was all good publicity, thank you very

Then came Arsenal's late surge for the title, and Done, facing potential liabilities of £200,000 if the Gunners won, put a brave face on events. "I'm sure Fergie's not waving any white flags yet and while there's games still to be played there's still hope," he said. Arsene Wenger's side ended that. Speculating on how events would change his life, Done said: "I'm going on holiday to Butlin's rather than the March

Boxer floored by pregnancy

due to injury or illness is hardly a major surprise. One Mexican fighter, however, withdrew from her bout

because she was pregnant. After several tests confirmed that Maria de las Nieves Garcia, 22, was with child, she was pulled from her bout against Christy Martin on the undercard of what would have been the Evander Holyfield-Henry Akinwande heavyweight title fight (which itself was called off because of Akinwande's illness). Nieves Garcia was 21 weeks pregnant. "She had no idea she was pregnant," said Bobby Goodman, Madison Square

Garden's director of boxing. "She seemed to be dejected that she was not fighting." Goodman said, adding in response to a question: "No, she didn't appear to be

gushing that she was pregnant." Nieves Garcia was scheduled to earn £9,500 to fight Martin, the World Boxing Council's women's lightweight champion. June

by O'Sullevan

BOXERS PULLING out of fights JULIAN WILSON, one of the BBC's A VINTAGE performance was most mild-mannered and respected sports correspondents, spoke publicly for the first time of the revelation in his autobiography that he "felt betrayed" by Peter O'Sullevan. his colleague for decades, and a man seemingly untouched by even

the tiniest hint of nastiness. Wilson said the falling-out began over when O'Sullevan would retire. Wilson claims he turned down the job of commentating for ITV in 1981 because O'Sullevan had told him he intended to retire at the age of 65 in 1983. However, O'Sullevan subsequently informed Wilson that this "retirement" would be from

journalism, not commentating. "I was quite shattered, but the ITV job had gone," Wilson wrote. "I felt betrayed."

Asked for his reaction, O'Sullevan responded: "I haven't read the Anton and Morocco's Abdelkader book so I am not in a position to El Mouaziz. A sign of the wines, percomment. I hope the book does well, that's all."

Wilson 'betrayed' Marathon man When goalposts runs on alcohol were moved

expected from Portugal's Antonio Pinto as he sought to defend his London Marathon title.

As befits a man who has his own vineyard. Pinto admitted to being partial to a glass or two of wine. Well, not just a glass, but a bottle or more. Four bottles, to be precise, each week. "Sometimes more than four," he said before running this

Asked by a Portuguese journalist if he also upheld the national tradition of a little snifter of cognac in the morning, he replied once again in the affirmative.
Wine, Pinto said, was full of vit-

amins, and his drinking was a natural complement to eating the kind of meals he enjoyed back home. In the race in London, Pinto finished third, behind Spain's Abel

Hearts drew 1-1 on the night and lost on aggregate, but still felt they would win through on principle. Unfortunately, they did not, their case being dismissed on a techni-

cality - because the original complaint had not been made in writing. Jim Jefferies, Hearts' manager, said: "I believe Chris has said that if the protest had been written on the back of a fag packet then it would have been OK." October

moved.

Women must flash more flesh'

WOMEN'S TEAMS competing in the Volleyball World Championships in Tokuyama have been told that in the interests of the sport they must expose more flesh. The naked truth is that beach volleyball, largely performed in states of near-undress by part-time models, has cast its dowdier relative in an unfavourable light, and the authorities have introduced measures to make the sixa-side version more appealing to spectators.

Brightly coloured balls are among the innovations, but the most controversial of the new ideas is the stipulation that the women must wear shorts only half as long as the men. The shorter shorts should be "tight in waist and length" and "cut in an upward angle towards the top of the leg". The new rules also "encourage", without ordering, women to wear a one-piece swimsuit-style outfit rather than shorts and top.

Not surprisingly, this brave semi-nude new world met with little approval from the teams. "Soon only models will be allowed on the volleyball court," one South American player complained.

Hole-in-one secures car

A NEWSPAPER'S golf correspondent had to consider whether to turn professional in order to be able to accept a prize of a £189,000 Lamborghini for sinking a hole-in-one.

Derek Lawrenson, of the Sunday Telegraph, won the car for his effort at a charity golf day featuring the England World Cup football squad at Mill Ride, Ascot. Lawrenson, a left-hander with a handicap of eight, is a Liverpool supporter and achieved his feat in the company of Paul Ince and Steve McManaman.

to turn down the prize or turn professional." he said, acknowledging the rules that say amateurs cannot accept more than £200 in prizes per hole and professionals are unable to compete in amateur tournaments. Lawrenson gave the matter a few seconds thought before accepting the supercar. He has since sold the motor, however, for a reported £100,000 after discovering the insurance would have cost him £3,000 a year.

Car secures hole-in-one

IT WAS just a normal day for Nancy Bachand. Trundling along a Massachusetts highway at a steady 30mph in her Toyota, she was minding her own business until Todd Obuchowski entered her life, or rather his golf ball did.

Obuchowski, a 34-year-old sheet metal worker, was enjoying a round at Haydenville's Beaver Brook course when he hit a wayward tee shot at the 116-yard, par-three fourth hole. The ball shot over the green and on to the road, where it ricocheted off the passenger side of Bachand's car and rolled into the cup for a hole-in-one.

"I didn't know for sure until all these guys started shouting," Obuchowski said. The damage to the car worked out at £90.

NICK HARRIS

AND THE HEADLINES YOU DID NOT SEE....

Schumacher confesses his 'deep love' for Coulthard

Tony McCoy: 'OK, so I slap my horses a bit. They love it'

Alcock: 'Di Canio was only tickling' Glenn Hoddle: 'I was wrong'

Madness of underdogs and Englishmen in favour NOTHING, IN my mind anyway, hinders the cause of sport in this

country more than the sort of reaction there has been in some quarters this week to a remarkable effort by England's cricketers. If unquestionably a boost to

national morale, it hardly justified the souvenir section put out by one popular print or suggestions that English cricket is in a much healthier state than the first three Tests had led us to imagine. The sobering facts are that England's success did tained the Ashes and, but for e storm that broke over Bris-.ne last month, they would



KEN JONES

have been three down in the

It may be that the impetus of Melbourne will be maintained in Sydney, but yet again the weight of unreasonable expec-

tation bears down on promise. papers and across the air-The year we are about to leave waves, abetted by Glenn Hodbehind us provided glaring dle's imprudent estimate, was examples of this largely British that England would be a major

Going back a little further, to the summer of 1997, a great deal of fuss was made about England's success in the Tournoi de France, a competition taken rather more lightly by Brazil, France and Italy.

From what I saw on television, neither Italy nor France looked fully geared up against England and it did not seem that Brazil were bearing right down on the throttle.

conveyed by reports in news- in a penalty shoot-out.

threat in the 1998 World Cup finals. A personal point of view was that England were not good enough to progress beyond the quarter-finals, but this was contrary to national expectations.

The feeling grew up. and it still thrives in many minds, including Hoddle's, that England were on their way to winning the World Cup until the loss of David Beckham against Argentina caused a rearguard However, the impression action and the agony of defeat

Through the refraction of vanced the view that England's time, England's performance in success in Melbourne augured France is made to look better than it was. Two victories; two defeats. Romania proved too curning, Tunisia were not up to much and Colombia played without real purpose.

It is not the intention to denigrate England's efforts, merely to put things into per- but one thing does not necesspective, which is not, unfortunately, a widespread habit. At this time of the year there is a tendency, natural I suppose, to take encouragement from the effect recent events may have on the future.

On television the other night a sports commentator ad- chester United are still there reality, from understanding that thing. Ask any Englishman

well for next summer's cricket World Cup. With the rugby World Cup in mind, he drew similar encouragement from England's defeat of South Africa and how close Wales came to beating them.

This is all very well and good sarily lead to another or provide absolute proof of improvement.

For example, claims put forward for the Premiership, particularly by its main sponsors. Sky Television, have not been borne out by efforts in the European competitions. Man-

but Arsenal, if admittedly weakened by injuries and suspensions, were soon out of it. The Premier League is exciting but the heroes are invariably found out when tested against the more measured tempo favoured by foreign opposition.

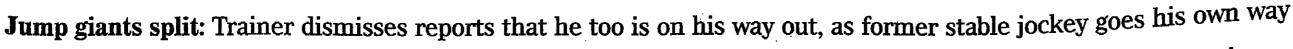
You can go on and on like this, and a long journey it becomes, but the general response to England's victory is encouragingly one of pleasure rather than bluster. That of a nation at last coming to terms with the loss of historical sport-

ing supremacy. Good things can come from acquiring a proper sense of

we have no divine right to succeed at games our ancestors invented.

England's victory in Melbourne put a smile on plenty of faces, not least because it was unexpected. From being a team that had failed to bat with much efficiency, bowl with any sustained penetration and hold comparatively simple catches. England had overcome the acknowledged leaders of world

Among life's little dilemmas is the problem of the dedicated underdog who finds himself in danger of becoming an upperdog. It can be a very unsettling



Nicholson insists he is staying put

IN THE rumour distillery of By RICHARD EDMONDSON racing the most potent story in recent weeks has been that the line yesterday as the gos-David Nicholson would soon be out of Jackdaws Castle and replaced by Oliver Sherwood. The Independent approached Sherwood several weeks ago and he swore "on his children's lives" there was no truth in suggestions he was leaving Rhonehurst, his Upper Lambourn base. It was a persuasive forfeit.

sip gathered momentum. Ruby Walsh, the jockey leading the championship in Ireland, it was said, would be Sherwood's first signing. "If I had A Maguire, R wouldn't be looking anywhere else," the trainer said.

Nicholson concurred. "We will not be adding to the jock- There is absolutely nothing in Sherwood was maintaining eys at Jackdaws Castle," he it and I can assure you of that." he said. "I haven't been ap-

said. "We have Richard Johnson, Robert Thornton, Robert Massey, Oilie McPhail and Adri-

an [Maguire] - a strong side." And world from Ireland also suggested Ruby would not be coming to town. "We have not been in contact with anyone," Johnson and R Thornton, I Ted Walsh, the jockey's father, said, "and I know the Duke and he would have given me a ring if anything was happening.

Oliver Sherwood too, it ap- proached by Colin Smith [the excremental adjective to depears, will not be switching to a Gloucestershire postcode, "I

RICHARD EDMONDSON Nap: Just Nip (Fontwell 2,40) **NB: Jennies Prospect** (Catterick 3.30)

can swear to you that I've not been approached by anyone,"

owner of Jackdaws Castle and scribe reports which yesterday to Jackdaws Castle six years Nicholson's employer and I claimed Maguire had quit beunderstand, David Nicholson is cause of lack of public backing in charge for the foreseeable fu- and that the jockey had become ture. People are just speculat- a pawn in the relationship being. I've had owners ringing me tween Smith and Nicholson. up, asking me what's going on. If I was offered the job it would be an honour and I would think Nicholson insisted that he about it, but it would be a wrench to leave Rhonehurst."

Nicholson went on to deny he was on his way out, invoking an of the first two in the trainers' The stories stating that certain

The trainer firmly denied that his own job was under threat. would stay at Jackdaws Castle for as long as he wanted.

Nicholson has not been out

championship since he moved ago. Smith responded yesterday to the speculation about the yard which cost an estimated £5m to construct. "I have heard the rumours concerning Ruby Walsh coming here but that is not in the equation at present." he said. "But if in the future David sits down and persuades me we need a retained jockey it will be discussed as usual.

are all wrong. There is definitely nobody on the shortlist to replace David Nicholson. There is no secret here. I am happy with David, but if you say to me when is David retiring that is another question and I don't know. But I can state that we have agreed to discuss that as and when the matter arises." Saturday's Ayr meeting must pass a 2.30pm inspection today. Part of the track is under water.

Maguire a victim of his former bravado

WE FIRST really noticed the BY RICHARD EDMONDSON brilliant young comet that was Adrian Magnire at the Cheltenham Festival of 1989. The teenage Irish amateur fired Omerta over the obstacles of the National Hunt Chase with a near-suicidal style not witnessed since Jonjo O'Neill got out of the saddle. Even then, the message Maguire conveyed to his mounts was that he was fence and they could join him

if they cared. They usually did. A Cheltenham Gold Cup on Cool Ground soon came Maguire's way and talk of him as a future jockeys' championship winner was not considered a prediction as much as a able to put his head down and certainty. However, as he steps down as retained rider at David Nicholson's Jackdaws Castle yard, Adrian Maguire's tale should be required consideration for all jockeys coming into the sport. Maguire will now never win a championship. His best days are gone at 27.

The Cossack, and as then unusual, style of the professionally infant Maguire is now the norm among the recent intake of bold, young jockeys. Maguire could count on the public back-now," Colin Smith, the stable's

himself was first seriously derailed at Hereford in 1995 when Desert Fighter mangled him through the wing of a hurdle. He would probably have won the title that year.

Maguire started running into a sleet of misfortunes. Injuries and the tragedy of losing his mother Phyllis, have meant going over the other side of a he has missed three of the last four Cheltenham Festivals. When he did manage to make the Festival, last March, he took a numbing fall from Zabadi which ruled him out of the Grand National meeting.

For so long he had been struggle through the hail, but recently the crashes told. Where once he would be plastered to a horse's neck, throwing it over whatever came into their path, the posture is now defensive. When you see the modern Maguire at an obstacle, he is much further back in the fied to put a happy spin on saddle, apparently in anticipation of a fall. As a result, the falls come more frequently.

Throughout all this, Maguire

for him was - until recently -unflinching. "We are sorry to hear about Adrian ending his retainer," the trainer said yesterday. "We have had some good times and he's still welcome at Jackdaws Castle."

But dissension started to swell elsewhere in the ranks and several owners at the yard began to request the services of another rider. Richard Johnson. Johnson is a member of the new Turks now favoured by many owners and trainers. men such as Tony McCoy and Ruby Walsh who would attempt to jump the Grand Canyon if they saw a winning post on the landing side. Ironically, theirs is an attitude made common by

Maguire himself. The Irishman will still ride is no longer what it was. There is talk that Maguire believes retirement is an option. For now, though, connections are satisevents, "Nothing will change at Jackdaws Castle in real terms except that Adrian will have a little more flexibility than he has

ing of Nicholson, whose support owner, said yesterday. "I think he will come out of this better than he is now, and I believe he will ride a bigger percentage of the horses at the yard under the new terms.

"Now that Adrian is an independent free agent, he could say to David Nicholson, Here are 20 or 30 horses that I would be prepared to ride in all their races' and, for the rest of the time, he could partner what he wants to for other trainers.

Richard Johnson fits in like he always has done. He will ride a number of horses in the yard as he is doing now. All it means is we have got two jockeys who are also free-agents, but there'll be no retained jockey here for the rest of the season and possibly next season. I also think our other lockeys. for Nicholson but the alliance Robert Thornton, Olie McPhail and Bob Massey, will also ben-

efit greatly from this." A shuffle then, it seems, with no losers, though cards and racing are not like that. Adrian Maguire is not now destined to be the ace of National Hunt racing, but there may be more good days ahead. He should

MAGUIRE'S ROLLERCOASTER RIDING CAREER

Sorn: 29 April, 1971. One of nine children. Rode over 200 winners in Irish pony

races.
Rode in point-to-points for Michael Hourigan for three years, wilming Irish championship.
First winner under rules: Gladtogetit at Silgo on 23 April, 1990.
First winner in Britain: Omerta, Cheltenham, 12 March, 1991
Appropriationship: Three years with Apprenticeship: Three years with Michael Hourigan, Co Limerick, one year with Toby Balding

Best season: 194 winners in

year with locy balding Best season: 194 winners in 1993/4 (runner-up in jockeys' championship). Seasonal totals of winners: 1991/2: 71, 1992/3: 124, 1993/4: 194, 1994/5: 130, 1995/6: 60. Grand National: Third on Moorcroft Boy in 1994. Cheltenham Gold Cap: Won on Cool Ground in 1992. Other big-race wins: Barton Bank (King George VI Chase 1993). Sibton Abbey (Hennessy Gold Cap 1991), Mysilv (Triumph Hurdle, 1994), Viking Flagship (Queen Mother Champion Chase 1994). Baronet (Scottish National 1998), Call It A Day (Whitbread Gold Cup 1998).

Rode six winners in a day at an Irish point-to-point meeting
Rode first five winners on a six-race card at Plumpton on 29 August, 1994 (He had to pull his mount up in the last)
Rode five winners, a second and a fourth on a seven-race card on Racing Post Chase day at Kempton on 22 February, 1997 for a 355-1 five-timer

■ Rode a treble at Sandown in Jan-uary, 1992 only for each winner to be disqualified later as he had claimed a 3lb allowance to which he was not entitled.

Missed the Cheltenham Festiva three years running from 1994 to 1996, due to the death of his moth-er on the first occasion and injury



The luckless Adrian Maguire parts company with Barton Bank at the last fence with the 1994 King George VI Chase at Kempton at his mercy

WARWICK

12.50 Premier Generation 2.50 Wesley's Lad 3.20 Easby Joker 3.50 Perk Alert 1.20 Cabalius 1.50 Charlie Banker 2.20 Smarty

BET-Hand Course Hurrin to 330 yards.

BE Course is W of city on BA095. Buses from stations at Warwick (fm) and Learnington Spa (2m). (from 1:97) ADMISSION: Club £13; Tartersalls £9 (accompanied under-16s free); Course £5. CAR PARK: £5 in members; centre of course free.

BELEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe 23 wins from 100 runners (23%). D Nicholson 22-104 (212%). Mrs J Pitman 14-69 (203%), N Twiston-Davies 11-81 (136%).

ELEADING JOCKEYS: A P McCoy 21 wins from 50 rides (42%), R Johnson 17-70 (243%), N Williamson 17-76 (224%), A Maguire 13-58 (224%), W Marston 13-81 (16%).

12 50 TINY TIM NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) \$2,900 added

L	12.50	2m Penalty Value £3,036
1	73-12	PREMIER GENERATION (26) (D) (BF) (P G) N Handarson 5 ti 4
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3		ARCTIC FANCY (FSB) (The Cool Customers) J G Smyth-Osbourne 5 to 12 _W Merston
4	065-	CARTOUCHE (261) (Denick C Broamfeld) M Witarson 4 to 12 C Lienestyn
5	3053	CHOICE CUT (236) (Harvey Ashworth (MC) Ltd) T Calchell 5 to 12
6	60-	ELVIS (280) (The Chap Quarter) L Wells 5 to 12
7	05	FILOU DU BOIS (FR) (42) (J M D J Racmo) Miss H Knoht 5 10 12
в	00-45	FTT TO BUST (34) (The County Foursomes) N Babbane 5 10 12
9	F	GEMISTONE (FR) (19) (Mrs Dana Hane) Mrs D Haine 5 to 12
10	P-0	JALB (49) (Family And Friends) P Myrphy 4 10 12
Ħ		KOMASTA (F69) (Mrs D Butler) Mrs D Butler 4 10 12
12	5/0P	MISTER RIVER (34) (Mrs Ann Shaw) D Baworth 7 10 12
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7	60/0-0	DANCING IN RIO (40) (Mrs Theresa Welshel T P Welshe 6 to 7 J Moodord (7)
В	66	ISCA MARDEN (21) (Mrs C A Daves) P Hayward 4 to 7X Alzpuru (3)
19	1	MISCONDUCT (F92) (The Playmates) Mrs M Jones 4 10 7 A Maguine
		10 declared

BETTINC: 5-4 Premier Generation, 4-7 Ricardo, 6-1 Nashkapour, 8-1 Chippews, 14-1 Mis 16-1 Arctic Pancy, Filou Du Bots, Shopaholtc, 20-1 others 1997 Kadou Nonantas 4 10 12 J A McCarthy 9-4 fav (O Sherwood) 15 ran

Premier Generation: Won 3 times on the Rat last season and took advantage of a relatively low mark over jumps to land a handicap at Cheltenham last month. Good 2nd off an 11b higher mark next time and less to do here Ricardo: Disappointed only start last season, but made impressive reappearance when Ricardo: Disappointed only start last season, but made impressive reappearance when successful at Towcester 2 weeks ago. Bright luture, but has tough opponent to beat Arctic Fancy: Won at Brighton (Inn41 soft) in October, but has shown signs of temperament and plently to do against more experienced ritials. Cartouche: Some signs of ability in 3 outings over hundles and may do better in his 2nd season, but has not run since April Cholce Cut: Placed twice from 4 outings in bumpers last season. Showed he acts on soft ground when and at Haydock, but may need farther. Ehvis: Unplaced in 2 bumpers last season and better effort first time out at Sandown in March when 8th of 18 to Stewarts Pride. Filto Dis Bolis: Placed on the Flat in the French provinces and modest form in 2 outings over hundles. Will need to improve to figure hare. Fit To Bust: Tailed off in both outings last season, but has shown promise this term, though this looks too competione.

Fit To Studt Tailed off in both outings last season, but has shown promise this term, though this looks too competione. Gemistone: Maiden on the Flat in France. Hard to assess as he was a 20-1 chance and in mid-division when he felt 4 out on his hurding debut at Donoaster this month Jabb: Won twice on the Flat last season over timif and weakened 3 out when 7th on his reappearance over hurdies at Taunton last month. Acts on soft ground Komastar Won on the Flat (all-weather) as a 2-yo and first run for new yard Mister River: Promising 5th in a bumper in 1996-7, but missed last season and no ago of abirty in 2 runs over hurdes test month. Nashitapour: Ex-Irish, runner-up in maden hurdes at Gowern Park and Punchestown Solitord Quart Unplaced in 3 bumpers last season: having he first outling for 12 months.

Sofford Quay: Unplaced in 3 bumpers test season; having his first outing for 12 months Shopetholic: Unplaced in competitive bumper won by Hidebound last season and its Shopeholic: Unplaced in competitive bumper won by Hidebound last season and little to recommend him on his 2 nine over hundles so far. Chippewar: French import, who was claimed after finishing 3rd in a 2m1t chase on his tast outing at Auteut in October and has not run and no Deporting in Rito: Hundling debut after 4 outings in bumpera, but was tailed off in the final 3f at Amtiree last month and looks an unifiely prospect is a Maiden; Madden handicapper on the Flat, who showed a little promise on her hundling debut at Ascot, but weakened quickly after 3 out when 6th at Taunton next time Misconduct: Won 3 times on the Flat last season at distances up to 101 for Gary Moore

VERDICT: Ricarde looked a horse to follow when staying on strongly up Towces-ter's stiff run-in two weeks ago, but comes up against a useful sort in PREMIER GEN-ERATION. He is back in nowce company after two runs in handcaps and his 2nd to Red Guard at Sandown last time was a fine effort considering he had risen till bin the

1.20 BOB CRATCHIT NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) 25,000 added

_		
22-461	RIVER WYE (21) (D) (Woodsfield Wanderers) G Yardley 6 11 6	
	NATIVE CHARM (29) (D) (Pel Mel Partners) C Mortock 6 ti 1	
1R01-0	CABALLUS (USA) (71) (CD) (Salammi Racing) Mrs J Pleman 5 to 0	
O/PR-R	MELL BAY SAN (16) (David John Robbins) R Dickin 7 tl C	
310-0P	ROYAL SCHITTAR (USA) (37) (C) (P J M Racing) M Tompkins 8 ft 0	
	SOL MAJSIC (30) (The G & P Partnership) J King 6 tl 0 A P McCoy	
	TUDOR FALCON (243) (Paul Bradley) P Bradley 5 11 0	
POMOR	SANDRIFT (14) (T. I Ford) Mico & Stricel 9 9) 9 G Torrary V	

BETTING: 9-4 River Wye, 5-2 Native Charm, 7-2 Sol Music, 4 Mill Bay Sans, Sandrift, 33-1 Tudor Felcon 1997: Melsinck Weggle 7 10 2 M Berry (7) 9-1 (C Brocks) 9 ran

FORM GUIDE River Wye: Comfortable winner on his chasing debut at Ludlow (2m, g/s) this month. Won twice on good ground over hurdles and unproven on soft Native Charm: Quite useful hurdler, fall 5 out on her first appearance over fences last

- 8 declared

month, but won easily at Plumpton (4 ran) next time, Looks sort to do well in chases Cabulfus; Has the physique to make a chaser, but was temperamental over hurdles and refused to race twice. Chasing debut and good chance if he jumps off on terms Mill Bay Sent: Refused to start on his last 2 outings. Has been tried in blinkers, but is

virtually unaced for a year and one to avoid Royal Scimiter: Won over hurdes hare (soft) in March and finished if the of 30 in Supreme Novices' at Chellenham. Disappointing this season, but makes his chasting debut Sof Music: Madé a few mistakes on his first appearance over fences this month, but Soil are a promising 3rd to Royal Toast. Sure to win when his jumping improves still ran a promising 3rd to Royal Toast. Sure to win when his jumping improves Tudor Felcom: Salling hunder, surprise winner (25-1) at Market Resen (nearly) a year ago, but pulled up on his other 3 outings last season and first run over lences Sandriffic Moderate form over hundes and soon struggling after halfway on her chas-ing debut when pulled up before 3 out at Towcester a fortingfit ago

VERDICT: Caballus, a big, strong sort, comes from a stable whose novice chasers have always to be respected. However, he refused to race two fast season and gave trouble at the start before winning at Chellenhann in April. Experience counts in novice chases and NATIVE CHARM, who had a confidence-boosting easy task at Plumpton last time and has shown she acts on soft ground, is narrowly prefered to Rilver Wye

1.50 MR & MRS TIDBALL NOVICE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £2,900 added 2m 3f Penalty Value £2,476

FORM GUIDE

Resh Reflection: Ex-Insh gelding, who won a maiden hurdle at Kibeggan (2m3t, good) in June. First run since and the handicapper has taken no chances with him Berlin Blue: Plat winner twice as a 3yo. Unplaced in 5 outings over hurdles for Charles Brooks last season, but had some stiff tasks. First run for new yard Cashaplenty: Steps up in trip after winning 3 times over 2m this season. Acts on soft ground, but has been raised another 7tb since his last success.

Charles Bentier: Landed a gamble (15-1 to 8-1) at Windoor this month in a handicap hurdle by 12 lengths and has been raised 8tb. Lightly raced and scope for further improvement.

provement Hamigale Moss: Now qualified for handicaps after 3 unplaced runs in novice company. Bred to stay and may do better in time, though is not exactly well treated at the weights Supreme Troglodylas: Placed in nowce hurdles at around this trip in 1996-7 and seems

race for some time when 2nd to Granby Bell at Hereford this month, with Precious is-

Face for some unit when a rate to crampy set at reserved the mornin, with rescous seland 8 (anglits away in 3rd

Arcitle Ground: Placed twice in bumpers last season, but has not shown much in 3 outings over hurdes. Did not appear to stay when titled over 2m4f last time
Preclous Island: Unable to quicken from 2 out when 3rd to Grantly Bell and Crazy

Crusader at Hereford last time and meets the 2nd on the same terms Lime Street Blues: Has run 17 times over jumps without success and his two placings last seeson were both on fast ground

Sylcan Express: Novce hurder, 3rd in a bumper last season (2m, good) when trained by Chns Grant and does not seem to stay this trip VERDICT: Bertin Blue ran at some of the top tracks last season for Charlie Brooks and this is more his level. However, as he could need this first run since April Cashap-lenty and CHARLIE BANKER may have the advantage in fitness. Cashaplenty has been raised 226 since winning at Ultioweter last month, while Charlie Banker had plenty in hand when skating up by 12 lengths at Windsor lest time

2.20 VERA PENN (OH DARLINGS) MAIDEN CHASE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 3m 2f Penaity Value £2,846

P342.F MAJESTIC STORM (13) (Green And Gold Partnership) T McGovern 5 11 6. 6P-45F SMARTY (36) (Ms T Brown) Ms J Firmen 5 11 6

FORM GUIDE About Turn: Showed a little abitity when 22 lengths 4th to Caras Rose on Lacester chase debut (3m, good) but unseated when in mid-division in Knight's Crest's race over this C/D latest end is clearly no world-beater. Alpha Leather: Beginning to look very moderate and was soon behind when 32 lengths 4th of 8 to Knight's Crest over C/D (good to soft) latest.

4th of 8 to Knight's Crest over C/D (good to soft) latest
Butlers Match: Experienced point-to-pointer, but scielined since 25 lengths who at Motington 21 months ago. Possible outsider in a weak race.

Coole Cherry: Winning point-to-pointer. 50-1, soon tailed off after mistakes and pulled
up 2 out in race won by Edmond at Towcester (2m6) novich, soft) after long lay-off
Reging Galler. Little sign of ability so far, 50-1, behind from 9th when distant 7th of 13,
to Safmon Breeze at Folkestone (2m6) novich, good to soft) on lending debut
Trouble Ahead: Form in bumpers. Going like a winner until bundered 2 out when 17
lengths 2nd of 9 to Ask Antony on chase debut at Hereford (3m1) moth ch, good to
soft following 19-month lay-off. Open to improvement and looks a leading contender
Majestic Storm: Form in Irish points before falling at the 9th in race won by Mariborough at Lingfield (3m novich, heavy) on fencing debut. Possible improver

ough at Lingfield (3m nov ch, heavy) on fencing debut. Possible improver Smarty: Promise on debut and going with plenty of gusto in lead when fell 13th in race won by Gamison Friendly at Windsor (3m nov hoap ch, good) latest. Possibilities VERDICT: TROUBLE AHEAD showed enough against Ask Antony at Hereford to suggest he can win a race of this type. There may, however, be better to come from Sparfny, who was looking set to play a major role when he fell in Garnson Friendly's race at Windson. Majestic Storm and Budlers Match look the pick of the remainder.

2.50 49'S CHRISTMAS PRESENT HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS C) £7,500 added 2m Penalty Value £5,488

- 6 declared -BETTING: 2-1 Siren Song, 4-1 Young Spartacus, 9-2 Tonka, 5-1 Wesley's Lad, 6-1 Ranger Stoane,

1997: Lina Of Conquest 7 10 6 T Dascombe 15-6 fav (A Hodges) 7 ran FORM GUIDE

FORM GUIDE

Sirem Song: On the upgrade with easy Worcester novice win and convincing 11/Llength success over subsequent scorer Tickerty's Gift at Lingfield (2m hosp hidle, soft). Reised (8b for latest win, but not out of it Westey's Lact. Disappointing over 2m4l latest but go close on earlier 4 lengths 4th to Halona over C/D (good to soft) and Laicester 2nd to Once More For Luck; Young Spartacust Landed ordinary novices at Stratford and Luckow as term but Imitations exposed when 4 lengths 6th to Racketbal at Bengor. Possibly needs farther Maniferior. Four-time scorer last term, latest from 13th lower at Luckow a year ago. Side-lined even all aucesters. Elst win in . Inter and minimals here weethach terms.

invariants: Four-intersectors last term, sect from 15to lower at Cuclow a year ago. Side-lined since all-weather Flat win in June and probably best weathed here. Tonica: On the upgrade with Chepstow win from 1b higher and game 11/5 length 2nd to Nessun Don at Warwick (2m hoap hole, soft), Weighted to go close Ranger Stoaner, Back near best when 15 lengths 3nd to Mukodur at Huntingdon and one to consider on 4 lengths 3nd to Halone over C/D in Nov from 2b higher. VERDICT: Siren Song cannot be ruled out while he continues to improve, but there may be more value in RANGER SLOANE, who appreciated a return to the minimum trip when third to Muliciar at Huntingdon. He is now 1to lower than his winning mark of Haydock 12 months ago. Westey Lad looks another for the forecasts.

3.20 NEXT YEAR'S THE BIG ONE HANDICAP CHASE (D) £5,000 2m 4f 110yds Penalty Value £3,948

- 10 doctared -Manatum weight: 10st. True handicap weight: High Mood (ag 10h. BETTIMG: 100-30 Cardinal Rule, 5-1 Hanasian Sam, 6-1 Calleva Star, Eastly Jokar, 15-2 Phander Bay, 8-1 Around The Gale, 9-1 Mr Sneggia, 10-1 River Bay, Sagaman, 12-1 High Mood 1997: Stammore 5 to 2 S McNeil 9-2 (C Brooks) 6 ran

FORM GUIDE

Around The Gale: Lightly raced since last success in 1996. Below his best last term, though far 4 lengths 4th of 9 to Martell Boy at Stratford (3m hosp ct., good) in March. Eastly Joken: Slipping in weights but needs to step up on latest 25 lengths 4th of 6 to River Unahlon at Newcastle (2m4) hosp or, soft). McCoy booking could be significant Cardinal Rule: Yet to live up to promise of 11/4 length with over Speaker Weatherful at Uttoweter in Oct 197. Below form 2 recent starts after lay-off and difficult to assess. Hawaiian Seam: Exposed performer, beginning to look high in the veights after 5th rise for length win over Haunting Music at Hurtingdon (2m 4f cond hosp ch. soft). Plunder Bay: in-and-out performer 2 seasons ago (beat Calisce Bay at Uttoweter) but well beaten behind Sounds Like Fun at Sandown on return from 19-month lay-off Sandown and Marter Rasen and Wornerster winner Perhabits fathered by nernow 2nd to Twin Falls at Forthwell in October and looks vulnerable off this mark
Mr Smaggle: Completed 4-timer from 2b higher in April '97, Feir correback at Chepstow in Oct but well-beaten 3rd of 4 to Sierre Bey et Towesster, 2m hcap ch, soit) since
Calleve Start: Signs of return to form when, challenging in 2nd, fell 3 out in race won
by Carlingford Gale at Utboster (2m4f hcap ch, good to soit) in Nov. Go close
River Bay: Best race for a while when bitn reck by Philatelic at Windsor (2m5f hcap
ch, good to soit) at this mark but disappointing since and not one to rely on
High Mood: improved when 12 lengths 3rd of 7 to Siep On Eyre at Bangor (2m 4f hcap
ch, good to soif) last time. 4b out of handicap, but no lost cause

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CLASS E) ES,O

VERDICT: Something of a lottery. Around The Gale, Eastry Joker and Cardinal Rule all capable of wirning on their best form, but CALLEVA STAR showed signs of a comeback last time and is from a yard finding its feet again. He has a mere feather-weight here with Robert Widger aboard and could be the value bet over the progressive High Mood, who still makes too many mistakes to be trusted.

50	CHRISTMAS STANDARD OPEN NH FLAT RACH) £1,500 added 2m Penalty Value £1,445	CE (CLAS
••	H) £1,500 added 2m Penalty Value £1,445	
	BEGIN AGAIN (R Bowers) P R Webber 4 11 4	J & McCortis
0-	CACCINI (298) KG Watermam C Pocham 4 11 4	M California An
	CALIMSTOTINI CORUL IMPROPILITATI MASS PLUTAVE TO A	D 020
	LASA FIRA IMBE K MARKSI NI MDE 5 17 4	C D.———— m
	CAUTEDE OFFICIALO (ARGINICIE) WORTHING C. HOFFICE 4 71 &	
R-0	HERBAL WISE (14) (T J Ford) Miss A Stokel 5 Tl 4.	Anaparu (3
	KINGSBRIDGE (Freddie Starr) M Pipe 4 11 4	C LIEBRARY
٥	KING WIZARD (54) (The Racing Hares) P Hobbs 4 11 4	A P MCCO
~	MEANONE DOV (Of Cohord Schools 2 Dates a 4	G Tome
3	MEADOWS BOY (8) (Richard Edwards) 8 Paling 6 1) 4	W Mersio
- 5	PERK ALERT (33) (Mrs Dawn Perrett) O Nicholson 4 11 4	R Masse
-	PUZZIEMAN (21) (D J Caro) D Caro 5 fl 4	DLE at r
-	RED MIST (Minter Machess) Miss H Knight 4 11 4	I Culiot
II2		
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		0 66
4-0	MAYBE LATER (16) (Team Murphy) R Curts 6 to 13	N Williams

SST: Winnotts Pancy 5 to 6 S Nety (7) 10-1 (Mass V Willerns) 21 rate 1 rate 2 r FORM GUIDE

VERDICT: David Nicholson makes few restakes in this type of race and it will take streeting out of the ordinary among the newcomers to beat PERK ALERT, whose debut effort here has a pretty solid look. Kingsbridge, Sunlik Soy and Island Mist

ETHE INDEPENDENT RACING SERVICES LIVE COMMENTARIES RESULTS 971 FONTWELL 972 982

973

ALL COURSES RESULTS

<u>0891 261 970</u>

983

CATTERIOX

STRATFORD Gorna: Saft

12.50: (2m 6f 110yds maiden hurdle) 1. GOODTIME GEORGE

Croppy Boy (4th), 50-1 Montes Magic (6th), 66-1 Lord Alexander, Monasaba Mutarata: 10 ran. 1/L dist, 21/L 17. 6. (Mrs D Haine, New-markett. Tota: £850; £160, £110, £620, DF: £5.10 CSF: £1626

(Sth), 14-1 Alberrane, 16-1 Ballet Royal, Britanna Mils, Cromaboo Crown, 20-1 Croach Patrick, Palace Parade, 50-1 Chingachgook (6th), 100-1 Woodlands Lad To 15 rsn. 15, 11/4, 9, 1, 7 (D Williams, Newbury). Tote: 63,70; 6150, 61070, 6410, DF: 620930. CSF: £117.28. Tricast: £14 bought in for 6,200 guineas.

bought in for 5200 guiness
2.50: (5m, handicap chase)
1. BOOTS MADDEN __N Williamson 9-2
2. Kinnshalls ______ F Keniny 7-1
3. Trouvaille _____ M Griffiths 16-1
Also nest 4-1 fav Piper's Rock (putled up).
9-2 Act in Time, 8-1 Bold Statement (4th).
12-1 Coole Hall (5th), 14-1 Herhorse, Hood-winker, 16-1 Malawi, 20-1 Early Drinker (8th), 33-1 Highland Jack
12 ran. 26, 374, 15, 31 (Miss Veneta Williams, Herrisord), Total: win 24/0; places £180, £280, £430, DF: £28.40, CSF: £3501.
Tricast: £43560.

LINGFIELD

s. Mr Bean.......Mr J L Liswellyn 5-1 Also ran: 15-1 Notable Exception (4th), 50-LING FIELD
Going: Standard

12.49: 1. COLERIDGE (J Wisson) 12-1; 2. Pedeuk 14-1; 3. II Principe 7-2. 10 ran. 5-4 fav Noukan (Sth.). 1.34. IJ Sheehan, Findon) Tota: 5-20: 2:50 2:20: 2:50 DF: 2:430 CSF: £14508 Thicast: £64855.
1.10: 1. PRINCE PROSPECT (S Whitworth) 1-3 fav; 2. La Piseza 11-2; 3. Bluewater Bay 14-1 & ran. 8. hd. (Mrs. L. Stubbs, York). Yotic: £150; £130. £170. £170. DF: £250. CSF: £2-1.
1.40: 1. JACK GOODMAN (Dane O'Neil) 3-1 co fav: 2. Sir Perse 3-1 co fav: 3. Matchik 14-1 & ran. 3-1 co far Mss fake (4th). /2. 1/k. (J Moore, Andover). Tote: £190; £130. £12. DF: £250. CSF: £143.
2.10: 1. DAPHNE'S DOLL (P Fredericks) one To Note.

11-8: 2. Pearly Queen 14-1; 3. Jonathan's Girl 50-1. 6 ran. 4-5 fav Social Round (pulled up). 14, nk. (Mass Gay Kellemay. Lingfled). Tota: £2-80; £130, £430 DF: £340, £5F: £1625 BURNING (G Faulm. 2.40: 1. CASTLES BURNING (G Faulm. 2.41: 11-11 fav: 2. Prospactor's Coses 5-4-3 2.40: 1. CASTLES BURNING (G Faukner) 0-11 lay; 2. Prospector's Cove 5-4; 3. Sellette 12-1 4 ran. Hd. 22 (C Cycle 1-4) ran. Hd. 24 (C Cycle 1-4) ran. Hd. 24 (C Cycle 1-4) ran. Hd. 24 (C Cycle 1-4) ran. Hd. 25 (C Cycle 1-4) ran. Sellette 1-4 (C C Cycle 1-4) ran. Sellette 1-4 (C

Place 6: £27.41. Place 5: £592

FIRST SHOW WARWICK 3.20 Continet Rule 11-4 10-3 7-2 7-2 3-1 Basiby Joker 6-1 11-2 6-1 6-1 6-1 Hansilan Sam 11-2 5-1 9-2 11-2 6-1 Colone Star 7-1 6-1 6-1 5-1 5-1 Around The Gale 9-1 9-7 8-1 8-1 9-1 Plunday Bay 7-1 9-1 8-1 8-1 8-1 D-1 B-1 13-1 B-1 D-1 High Blood 14-1 12-1 3-1 11-1 12-1 Enchancy a cith the colds, places 1, 2, 3 C Coral H William HB. E. Ladbroves, S Stanley, 7 Total

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Ashes tour: Recall for controversial bowler and talisman for final Test as jubilant England celebrate famous triumph

Australia to gamble on Warne's spin

THERE IS a good deal of bluff BY DEREK PRINGLE and bluster involved in the Australian psyche and no sooner had Alec Stewart's team won a Test match than Australia's selectors went knocking on Shane Warne's door. Suddenly this series has got serious and it is Australia, panicked into change by an England side fired by passion and renewed purpose, who appear to be under pressure.

Warne may be Australia's talisman, but he has not played a Test since the tour of India last March following surgery to his right shoulder. Instead, when he has not been dodging questions over his meeting with Indian bookies, he has been easing his way back into the limelight with the Victoria state

Yet, if he has got through an impressive amount of overs. the wickets have come in dribs and drabs, and those who know him and have seen him bowl say that the arm speed of old has not yet returned and that playing him now would compromise both the bowler and the

Warne, however, feels he is ready for a return to the big time, and he comes into the squad in place of Matt Nicholson and not of Stuart MacGill who, despite a hamstring tweak, is almost certain to play. That means Australia have three spinners and two pace bowlers in their squad, an indication that they clearly expect the Sydney pitch to turn big and

"There's no drama in my shoulder injury any more," said Warne after he had been picked for the final Test, which starts on Saturday. "It feels good and I'm ready. In fact it's got to the tage now that if Tubs [Mark aylor] wants me to bowl as inggrade cricket in Melbourne, many overs as possible, I can. Mind you, getting picked and team. Drafted in to bowl in the going back to Sydney feels like nets, he has travelled with the a bit anxious about it."

in Melbourne

Shoulder operations are notoriously fickle, and there were times during his rehabilitation when Warne felt that his playing days might be over.

"After I got out of the sling and nothing was happening I started to think what I might do. I'm not qualified at anything. Basically I've dedicated my life to cricket and I wouldn't know what to do. Maybe I could start coaching or go to England to teach leg-spin bowling.

"If you look at the pure stats. England do not play leggies that well. But I'm sure they'll be coming out with a point to prove. They are on a bit of a roll and with their tails up, they might come out and try to attack us a bit in the last Test."

Warne, has been one of the great draw cards of the last decade and only the most oneeyed England supporter would not wish him well. Cricket needs players of his calibre to generate interest in the game. "Good luck to the lad if he's

ready to play," England's coach, David Lloyd, said. "I know he'll be itching to get going again. "Whenever we play teams like Australia, they hit us with two things - big pace and wristspin. In fact they've got the option of playing two leggies in

Sydney. "We've got big pace but we haven't quite got the wrist-spin yet. Hopefully either Ian Salisbury or Chris Schofield, Lancashire's young leg-spinner, will give us that in the future. In fact the sooner we get Schofield involved the better. It may sound daft but, if it were me, I'd pick him for Sydney."

Schofield, who has been playis no stranger to the England

under his belt he is still a novice, and playing him in Sydney would be a risk distinctly un-English in its daring.

Far closer to home were the ritual celebrations that tend to follow any extraordinary victory. Lloyd, like most of the England players, looked shattered, a mixture of hangover and ebbing euphoria still coursing through

Only Test cricket can provide stomach somersaulting moments like those on Tuesday evening. As the nerves of both players and spectators were wound tighter and tighter, the pain becomes almost blissful. If the lows can be disheartening. and heaven knows this England team have endured more than their fair share of them, the highs are vertiginous.

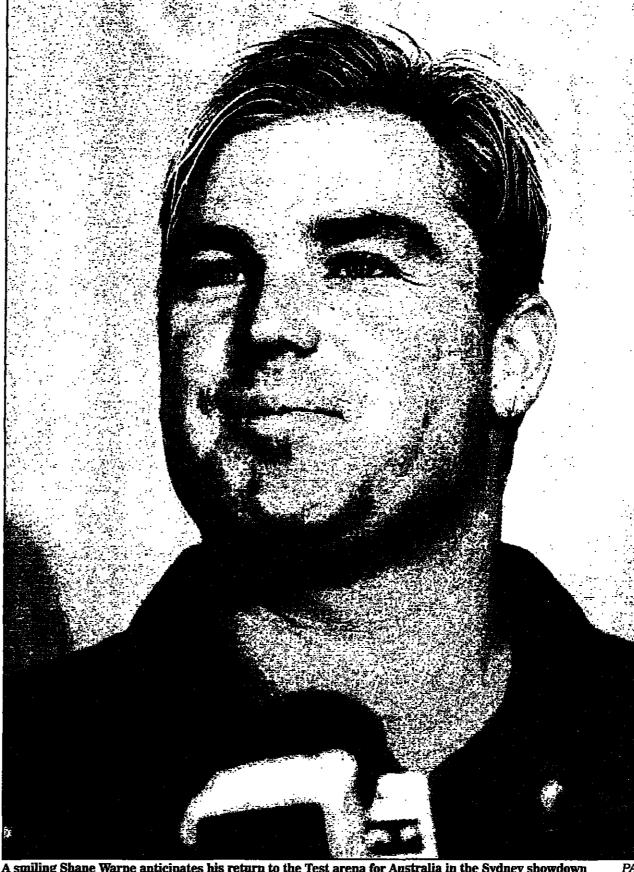
*Considering it was over in four days, it was a really memorable game," Lloyd said. "We were several overs down on the run rate, but because it was such a brilliant contest, with spectators on the edge of their seats, the match referee scrubbed the lot.

"Also we had their coach, Geoff Marsh, come into our dressing-room and shake everyone's hands, to say fair dinkum and well done. It's little things like that which made it a really top day."

Like Taylor, Lloyd felt that the superb catch taken by Mark Ramprakash was the moment that turned the tide England's

We've been bemoaning the fact that we couldn't hold on to any of the half chances, those little reflex catches that can change things. When Ramps took that catch, it gave us all a hell of a lift. Mind you, he'd been pumped up all tour and he. along with Nasser Hussain have been outstanding both as players and individuals."

Aware of the speculation that my first Test and obviously I'm team to Adelaide and Hobart. has recently appeared re-



A smiling Shane Warne anticipates his return to the Test arena for Australia in the Sydney showdown

problem as it's out of my control

"I'll keep working until some-

was thinking of standing down. tack. As far as I understand it, "It's not my intention to stand my contract is until the end of down, but then it won't be my 1999 season and I've got the full support of the people around

After the débacle in Hobart,

ing if Lloyd had been caught at Alex Tudor and Warren Hegg to an emotional low point. But for see a game like that. That's him as well as everyone else in- what Test cricket is all about. Melbourne has changed all that.

volved with this England team, and what you play and make all With only two first-class games garding his job, Lloyd denied he one says we're going to change it would not have been surpris- enjoyed was for new players like other way."

those sacrifices for. It's just Lloyd added: "What I really that, sometimes, it goes the kyne 5-5-0-31-3. A Hollioake 4-0-25-7 (mb2).

Alleyne sets up country victory

England XI 281-7 Queensland Country XI 228 England XI win by 53 runs

MARK ALLEYNE picked up three wickets to add to a halfcentury with the bat as England's one-day side completed a comfortable 53-run victory over Queensland Country in Brisbane.

Alleyne, the Gloucestershire captain, struck an unbeaten 52 as England racked up 281 for 7 from their 50 overs, and he then took 3 for 31 to halt the hosts' progress. The captain Adam Hollioake, overlooked for the Ashes series, top-scored for England with 81 from 78 balls after his younger brother Ben had made 51 batting at No 3.

The opener Nick Knight (6), Neil Fairbrother (0) and Mark Ealham (1) all missed out but there were handy contributions from Vince Wells (26), John Crawley (19) and Robert Croft (12 not out).

The Country side, made up of part-timers from rural Australia, reached 86 for 1 after 22 overs but were unable to maintain the chase against England's disciplined attack and were all out for 228.

It was a useful all-round performance by England in the first of their warm-up matches ahead of the triangular series with Australia and Sri Lanka.

6-236, 7-238. **Did not bat:** A Giles, G Hamilton. **Bowling:** Schossow 8-0-64-0 (nb2 w4).

B.Smith 8-1-39-3 (nb-2 w-1), Jesburg

10-1-38-0 (nb1 w3), W Smith 7-0-33-2.

L Wilson 5-0-26-0, Toohey 9-0-46-1

L. WISON 5-0-26-0, Toohey 9-0-4
(W1), Pynne 3-0-16-0
OUSENSLAND COUNTRY XI
D Todd c Hamilton b Giles.....
D Else c Crawley b Hamilton
B May st Crawley b Croft

CATTERICK

12.30 Alhawa 1.00 Prolific Agency 1.30 Incepeth Belle 2.00 Pin Mony 2.30 Ceneral Flight 3.00 The Next Waltz (nb) 3.30 Pennyahei

GOING: Good (Good to Soft in places).

Left-hand course, undulating and sharp. Not suitable for the long-stricting horse. Run-in 240yds.

Course is NW of town on A6136. Darlington station 14m - bus service to course ADMISSION: Cato £12: Tartersals £3: Course £250 (under 15a free into all enclosures). CAR PARK: Reserved

area 52, remainder free
FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

BLEADING TRAINERS: Mrs M Reveley 23-102 (225%), M Hammond 15-132 (114%), Mrs S Smith 13-92 (141%)
BLEADING JOCKEYS: P Niven 25-57 (295%), R Gerritty 14-76 (184%), A S Smith 13-93 (14%), B Storey 13-144 (8%).
BFAVOURITES: 121-340 (356%)
BLONG DISTANCE RUNNERS, Church Law (300) sem 188

HINKERED FIRST TIME: Danbys Gorsa (3.00).

12.30 STAND MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS E) (DIV I) 53.000 added 2m 1) ALBERT THE BEAR (35) J Berry 5 11 5

= 15 declared = BETTING: 11-4 Finisterre, 3-1 Es Go, 6-1 Albured, 13-2 Britant Star, 8-1 July Minster, 10-1 Albert The Bear, 12-1 Drive Assured, 16-1 others FORM VERDICT There are a few interesting horses here, notably Albert the Bear, the ex-New Zealand-timed Brilliant Star and Drive Assured. However, although starma is a sight doubt, FINISTERRE is selected to get off the mark at his thand attempt over hundres.

FONTWELL

1.10 FLAMENGO (nap) 1.40 Mullintor 2.10 Colonel Colt 2.40 Just Nip 3.10 John Drumm

1.00 CAMP MAIDEN CHASE (CLASS E) £4,000 added 2m

000-0P PERSUASIVE TALENT (14) D Lamb 7 11 5... 498-00 PROLETIC AGENCY (15) F Murphy 5 TT 5_Mr J P McNamera (5) B

BETTING: 6-4 Fils De Cresson, 13-8 Independent Grey, 7-1 Prolific Agency, 18-1 King's Country, 18-1 Bellydavid, 20-1 Doc-halilday, 25-1 Persussive Talent, 33-1 Pacific War FORM VERDICT

Fils de Cresson has obvious clams, but is unificity to be any sort of price, and the value will be elsewhere. Having shown signs of improvement on his first run over tences here lest time, INDE-PENDENT GREY is a tentative alternative.

1.30 FINGALL SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,000 added 2m

0/P6-1 DORANS WAY (28) (CD) G M Moore 7 12 0 ... N Hamily (7) 54-PP CAPTAIN TANDY (5) (D) C Smen 9 10 ft M Range

nei's Croft, 20-1 others

FORM VERDICT Although in theory Brancepeth Belle is a blot on the handcap, she taces very different conditions today compared to Market Rasen last Saturday, and could be worth opposing at the Saly odds. Do-rans Way is one possibility, but the Handicapper has been harsh on him, so it could be worth taking a chance with TWO BILLS from

FORM VERDICT

The form of the previous winners faminings and Yorkshire Edition locks suspect, and they are opposable under their penalities. QUETAL, who shaped well on his hurding debut and should improve for this step up in distance, a preferred. Brostalig Ont is a dark one who has to be considered, too

1.40 HOGMANAY SELLING HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,500 added 2m 2f 110yds

BETTING: 11-4 Multimor, 4-1 Sprint Up. 9-2 Dancing Poser, 6-1 Malbaum, 7-1 Carof's Dream, 8-1 Adillow, 10-1 Cartain Surprise, 16-1 others

FORM VERDICT

to follow up his recent runaway course with in a similar event. He seems to have little to feet from his rivals with the exception of the

effeir offering MULLINTOR an obvious opportunity

2.00 ZETLAND NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £5,000 added 2m 3f 22-243 MELTEMISON (14) M Hammond 5 11 10 22-33 MEZI CHISCOT (15) AT 10 MINOTO 6 TO 7 ... A Dobbet 127-5 MASTER HYDE (USA) (46) J Godle 9 TI 6 ... O Michael (5) 00F-33 CARLISLE BANDITO'S (20) J Berry 6 TI 5 R Thornton

0 069-04 CHEVALIER BAYARD (24) J Adam 5 10 0 B Powell
10 069-04 CHEVALIER BAYARD (24) J Adam 5 10 0 B Powell
11 0U0-45 BONNY RIGG (62) L Lungo 6 10 0 R Sopple
-11 declared - R Sopple - 11 declared Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weights: Somerby 9st 12th, Chevalier
Bayard 9st 9lb, Borny Rigg 9st 7th.
BETTING: 3-1 Carliste Barnito's, 9-2 Melitanisan, 13-2 Sousee, 7-1 Stoneeby, Pin Mony, 8-1 Master Hyde, Somerby, 12-1 others

FORM VERDICT This can go to CARLISLE BANDITO'S, who has steadily been finding his form over fances, is well handicapped both on his form over hardles and on the evidence of he last run at Doncaster, Sousse and Stonesby look the dangers.

2.30 STAND MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS E) (DIV II) £3,000 added 2m

FORM VERDICT

With Aginor a disappointment over hurdles so far, there are very few that can be given a serious chance here, so having shaped well in a good race first time at Ayr, BEGORRAT looks to have an obvious chance. General Flight and Mollinsburn may prove his reprint denoted.

- 9 declared -

Minimum weight: 10st, True handicap weight: Clare's Spring 9st 13th.

3.00 GOATHLAND HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS E) £5,000 added 3m 1f 110yds

- 14 declared -Minimum weight: 10st. True handicap weights: Cultane Lake 9st 13th, Another Red 8st 13th, Copperhant 8st 12th. BETTING: 4-1 The Next Waltz, 9-2 Hag's Way, 5-1 Arctic Fox, 11-2 Grate Deel, 8-1 Danbys Gorse, 10-1 Church Law, Galle Foxpa, 14-1 others

FORM VERDICT FORM VERDICT
The two to concentrate on here look to be ARCTIC FOX and The
Natd Waltz with preference to the former who has taken well to
tences. The selection probably should have won over C&D lest time
and in this less competitive contest looks to have very solid claims.

3.30 BARTON CONDITIONAL HANDICAP HURDLE (E) £3,000 added 3m 1f 110yds

Minimum weight: 10st True isndicap weight: Hachhiler 9st 13b, Chanson D'Amour 9st 4th, Jaylcoe 9st 3th, Barnstomer 8st 11b, BETTING: 4-1 Flat Top, 5-1 Jennie's -Prospect, 11-2 Permyahel, 6-1 Den-ticulata, 8-1 Talathath, 10-1 Mr Christle, Kinda Groovy, 12-1 others FORM VERDICT

Pennyahel is in good form and was only caught close home last time, but she continues to rise up the handicap despite not win-ning. Preference is for HTCHHRISER, who has been running well this season and will appreciate the ground.

3.10 WHITELAW CHALLENGE CUP AMATEUR H'CAP CHASE (E) £4,000 added 2m 3f

2355-2 JOHN DRUMM (46) (8F) P R Webber 7 11 5...Mr P Cowley (7) 04-301 CIPRIANI CUEEN (23) (CD) J Giford 8 10 4...Mr R P Varien (7) SETTING: 11-4 Colonel Colt. 4-1 Cherokee Boy, Guiel Momenta, 9-2 Pros-pero, 7-1 Rambling Sam, 8-1 Proceed, 16-1 Bearys Cross, The Ten Ami--2236P ANOTHER COURSE (17) C Marin 10 10 0 . . . Mrs C J Marin (7) - 5 declared -

Minmum weight: 10st. True handicup weight: Another Course 9st 3th. BETTING: 2-1 John Drumm, 5-2 Twin Falls, Cipriani Queen, 5-1 Prerogative, 20-1 Another Course

A weak race in which there are many more negatives than postives. CIPRIANI QUEEN, the least exposed of the quintet, is a token

3.40 'AMAHORO' HANDICAP HURDLE (D) £3,750 added 2m 2f 110yds

036422 KEEP ME IN MIND (29) N Michel 9 TI O.......Sophie Mitchell

BETTING: 2-1 Nordansk, 11-4 Another Night, 7-2 Takesme Keep Me in Mind, 10-1 Fountain Elici

closer but for being awkward at the last. He is preferred to Macy

talse pace against him most recently when he would have been

Kiwis hold nerve to take vital advantage

CRAIG McMILLAN and Chris India 208 & 356 Cairns shared a sixth-wicket New Zealand 352 & 215-6 stand of 137 to guide New Zealand to a four-wicket victoat Wellington. The Kiwis, resuming the

final day on 73 for 4. chasing 213, mentally knackered," he said. suffered an early blow when nightwatchman Paul Wiseman was trapped lbw by Javagal Srinath off the fourth ball of the morning. However, McMillan and all-rounder Cairns steadied the ship to put their side 1-0 up in the three-Test series.

Cairns was out for 61 and Dion Nash hit the winning boundary off Srinath.

Cairns was relieved to contribute after failing to take a wicket in either innings and scoring a second-ball duck in the first innings. "I was nervous for the first time in a long while and it was good to have to play with some real pressure on." he said.

The New Zealand captain, Stephen Fleming, said the match had been the most exhausting of his career. "It is the

New Zealand win by 4 wkts

ry over India in the second Test most mentally demanding Test match I've been involved in. You would go home every night

> India's captain Mohammad Azharuddin said dropped catches cost his side dearly and he called for a radical change before the final Test, which starts in Hamilton on Saturday. Final day, India won toss INDIA - First Indiags 208 (M A Azharud-din 103no: 5 B Douli 7 for 65).

NEW ZEALAND - First Immings 352 (D J Nash 89no, D L Vettor 57, N J Astle 56: A Kumble 4 for 83; INDIA - Second Innings 356 (S R Tendui-

Umplres: E A Nicholls (West Indies) and E A Watkin (New Zealand)

India and Pakistan to stage Test series

PAKISTAN AND India are to put an end to a 10-year standoff after it was announced yesterday that the two countries have agreed to meet in a Test match in Delhi next month.

JYLele, the secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket in India, said that Pakistan will play two Tests against India before the two countries are joined by Sri Lanka to take part in the inaugural Asian Test Championship.

India and Pakistan, including ongoing military exchanges over the disputed border in the countries. northern Indian state of Kashmir, have been the main reason behind the two countries' refusal to play Test cricket. The last such series was in 1989. when India toured Pakistan.

Pakistan are due to meet India in the first Test on 28 January before travelling to either Kanpur or Madras for a second Test, scheduled to begin on 4 February. The two nations will then be joined by Sri Lanka to contest the Asian Test Championship, with the final taking place in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

However, organisers have had to exclude Bombay as a venue because of statements by Bal Thakeray, leader of the Political animosity between city's right-wing Shiv Sena government, who is opposed to cricket tours between the two

> PAKISTAN TOUR OF INDIA: 23-25 Jan Three-day match (tba); 28-1 Feb First Test (Delhi): 4-8 Feb Second Test (Madras or Kanpur); 11-13 Feb Three-day match (tba) Natipur); 11-13 Feb Intee-day match (Ibo)
> ASIAN TEST CHAMPIONSHIP: 16-20
> Feb India v Pakstan (Calcutto), 24-23 Feb
> Sri Lanka v India (Colombo), 4-8 Mar PakIstan v Sri Lanka (Lahore); 12-16 Mar Final (Dhaka).

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

LEADING TRAINERS: P Nicholis 25-53 472%), M Pipe 24-89 (27%), J Gifford 20-127 (157%), R Buckler 18-77 (234%)

LEADING JOCKEYS: A P McCoy 37-42 (261%), P Hide 20-17 ((71%), R Dumwoody 17-91 (21%), A Maguire 15-81 (18.5%).

FAVOURITES: 222-512 (43.4%), BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Cherokee Boy (2.10). 1.10 AULD LANG SYNE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) 53,000 added 2m 6f 110yds (CLASS E) £3,000 added 27ff b) Troyus

1 50-1 FLAMENGO (FR (27) O Sterwood 5 11 5 JOStome
2 5-1 YORKSHIRE EDITION (29) (D) P Nichols 5 11 5. R Durwoody
3 52-01 ASDE THE SEA (30) R Dictor 6 10 12 JOSTOM
4 122-6 BROSTAIG ORT (201) R Curis 7 10 12 JOSTOM
5 21-01 FIRE ATTITUDE (42) R Rowe 5 10 12 G Sternion (5)
6 D JAZZ DIKKE (635) M J Weeden 5 10 12 G Sternion (5)
7 2F1-23 JRM JAM JOEY (31) D Grasel 5 10 12 J Goldstein (5)
8 5-300 KEEN RD (29) M/s L Rower 6 10 12 J Tazard
9 5-12 QUETAL (17) T Casey 5 10 12 J Tazard
10 51-2 QUETAL (17) T Casey 5 10 12 J T J Marphy
11 FA-607 SECURON GALE (45) R Flore 6 10 12 J Harphy
12 F1 F10 SECURON GALE (45) R Flore 6 10 12 J Harphy
13 F1-607 SECURON GALE (45) R Flore 6 10 12 J Harphy
14 F1 F10 SECURON GALE (45) R Flore 6 10 12 J Harphy
15 F1 F10 SECURON GALE (45) R Flore 6 10 12 J Harphy
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17 F1 F10 SECURON GALE (45) R Flore 6 10 12 J Harphy
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18 F10 SECURON GALE (45) R FLORE 6 10 12 J HARPHY
18 F10 SECURON GALE (45) R FLORE 6 10 12 J HARPHY
18 F10 SECURON GALE 6 10 J

3.40 Another Night

Seeman import Malabam. David Bridgwater has made a promis-leg start to his training career and it is interesting that he starts the multiple Flat winner off in the bottom grade. Perhaps the market will be the best guide to his prospects 2.10 YEAR'S END NOVICE HANDICAP CHASE (E) £4,500 added 3m 2f 110yds

FÖRM VERDICT With starring likely to be at a premium, QUIET MOMENTS must be hard to beat if he reproduces the form he showed to beat the promising ex-pointer/hunter True Fortune at Ultoweter He is still on a good mark and is opposed by essentially moderate/disappointing

gos, 33-1 Clare's Soring

2.40 NICKEL COIN' CHALLENGE CUP H'CAP HURDLE (C) £6,000 2m 6f 110yds

/51P- BELMORE ROCK (246) (CD) M Pipe 11 11 2.... ... T J Murphy 5-F3P2 TOP NOTE (26) J Gifford 6 10 7 P Hide

RAZ3/0 PEATSWOOD (23) M Madgwolk 10 10 6 _______ B Fersion
12510 HEVER GOLF DIAMOND (12) (CD) J Best 5 10 4 _L Cummins (3)
6-5524 WELSH SILK (51) D Gendofo 6 10 1 ._____ D Gallagher 9 decisred -9 decisred -BETTING: 9-4 Fedelica, 7-2 Just Nip, 9-2 Holloom Hill, 5-1 Belmore Rock, 8-1 Far Daws, Top Note, Welsh Silk, 12-1 others FORM VERDICT

Facialities is potentially much better than he showed on his first run for new connections, but there is a question mark against his abil-ity to stay this trip. JUST NIP, a good fourth at Sandown in a race which is working out well, looks a solid each-way alternative. Belmore Rock appeals most of the others.

FORM VERDICT Another uncompetitive affair NORDANSK has sound clams o his reappearance run over C&D (holds Keep Me in Mind) and probably found 2m4f beyond him next time. He may have tound a

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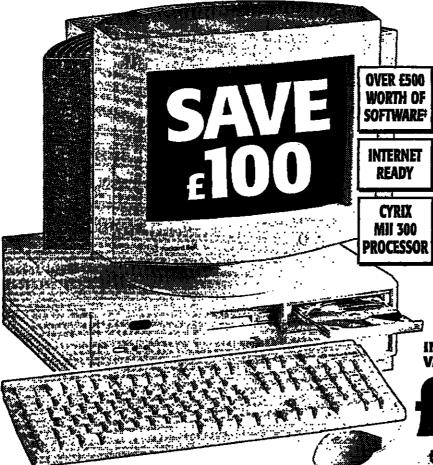
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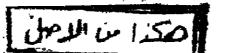
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Ward ready to *fight for his Rovers place

ASHLEY WARD explained yesterday that a "gentleman's agreement" had paved the way BY KIERAN DALEY for his £4.25m move back to the Premiership.

After signing a four-and ahalf year contract with Blackburn Rovers, the 28-year-old added that he was not worried about joining a club brimming with forwards. The striker said ing against the likes of Chris Sutton. Kevin Gallacher. Ewood Park on Saturday. Nathan Blake and Kevin Davies after his move from Barnsley.

"I've never made any secret of my ambitions to get back into the Premiership and Barnsley knew that." he said. "We had a United a couple of weeks ago. gentleman's agreement that they wouldn't try to stand in my Rovers came in for me. Fair play he has been as good as his word.

a first-team place. It would be of goals along the way. disappointing if a club like this allowed anyone the luxury of while, you always look at the just walking into the side. There type of players you would want

- FOOTBALL

are a lot of talented players here and there are certainly a lot of top strikers about. All I want to do is to make sure that I get into the team and stay there."

Under the seven-day rule, Ward will not be eligible to play he had no fears about compet in Blackburn's FA Cup tie against Charlton Athletic at

Blackburn's manager, Brian Kidd, made Ward his second major signing after recruiting the Northern Ireland winger. Keith Gillespie, from Newcastle

Kidd said of his new signing: "Ashley is a link player, someway if clubs such as Blackburn one who can hold the line while we try to get the ball forward to the chairman. John Dennis, and play in the opposition's half. He's a target man if you "I expect to have to fight for like but he gets his fair share

"I ve admired him for a

Kinnear's rich feeling

JOE KINNEAR the Wimbledon ruthless agents - and winning.

let players go when a big cash out it was 6.000. offer came in, he can now say 'no'. The lure of transfers to the likes of Manchester United. the Premiership, Previously, Arsenal and Liverpool no longer holds sway for the club's

Instead, Kinnear is able to future of the club as they sign build the squad."

five, six and seven-year deals. manager, is playing a cat and He explained: Tm no longer mouse game with football's under pressure to sell. Gates have gone up to an average of Where Kinnear once had to 18,000 and when we started

"We're now reaping the rewards of being able to stay in I've always had my own budget. There's never been money put into the club. This year I've not had to seli. It's allowed Sam bold on to what he sees as the Hammam to invest and me to

RUGBY UNION

he suffered one of the most

painful injuries in the medical

lexicon and while he lasted 140

minutes longer than Preston,

who harely had time to lace up

his boots before being forced to

swap one of them for a plaster

cast, it was not quite what the

Cherry and Whites had in mind

when they signed him from

Ebbw Vale in November. "He's

had an operation and he's look-

ing at six months on the side-

lines," John Fidler, the

them. I know people will say we bave a lot of strikers here now and I am also aware that no player is happy when he's not playing. But I must do what's best for the club and competition for places is a must. It gives you the cutting edge."

John Aloisi, the Coventry City striker, has apologised to Portsmouth fans for leaving Fratton Park on the cheap, and said he fears for the future of the First Division club.

The £1.5m-rated Aloisi, who scored his first Premiership goal against Tottenham at the weekend. moved to Highfield Road for only £650,000 two weeks ago to ease Pompey's financial problems.

Aloisi, who had scored 17 goals this season before his move to the Sky Blues, said: "I still talk to people down there and the fans are not happy that the chairman is selling so many players. I feel so sorry for the supporters who were brilliant to me and I wanted the best for them. They were angry when I was sold, and going on the cheap did them no favours.

"But I had no other choice than to come to Coventry. The manager [Alan Ball] also had no say in the matter. He is also not happy and I really do fear for the future of the club now."

Meanwhile Coventry's almost annual battle against relegation from the Premiership they have now gone seven games without a win - has suffered a double setback with the suspension from 9 January of Stephen Froggatt and George Boateng. who have both reached the five-booking mark.



S Africa stakes claim to stage World Cup

cially entering the race to stage the 2006 World Cup.

"We have more than enough fore today's deadline. world-class stadia for the event and superb road, rail and air from some rivals that a high links," the World Cup bid com- crime rate makes the country mittee chief executive, Danny unfit to host the event. "We Jordaan, claimed in Johannesburg.

Gloucester team manager. No 8, who lost almost a stone in forwards coach next week fol-

Perry among the replacements

despite being England's pre-em-

ment full-back. Bath pulled the

same stunt a little under a year

ago when they recalled Callard

to kick the goals against Brive

in the Heineken Cup final and

it is a sign of their desperation

that they feel obliged to repeat

time being, lowliest of the tra-

ditional West Country triumvi-

rate, plan to announce a new

Bristol, the third and, for the

the gamble.

SOUTH AFRICA went on the of- the other contenders and a and are constantly gaining fensive yesterday after offi- spokesman for Fifa, world foot- ground against organised ball's ruling body, said no more candidates were expected be-Jordaan criticised those who

Jordaan dismissed claims hosted the 1995 rugby union World Cup, the 1996 African Na-England, Germany, Brazil, tions' Cup and the 1998 athlet-Egypt, Ghana and Morocco are ics World Cup without incident

crime," he stressed.

claim Africa will not be ready by 2006, saying there were more flights from Johannesburg to Cape Town than from London to Manchester. "Europe wants to determine when they are ready and when we are ready. They are not entitled to decide when we are ready. We have

met the requirements to host the World Cup," he said.

Morocco, which unsuccesfully bid for the 1994 and 1998 finals, added its name to the list earlier this month. The other countries all submitted their official bids in November.

Fifa inspections will be completed by 31 January 2000, with the decision being made by its Executive Committee in March

North on the way to their first BY BILL COLWILL

through the second half.

Also earlier, South had overgame in which their goalkeeper, Beth Storry, had been out-

Reilly not ready to risk recall for Wright

RUGBY LEAGUE

BY DAVE HADFIELD

THE UNVEILING of Huddersfield's new half-back pairing will have to wait, because Nigel Wright is not yet ready for action. The former England and Great Britain Under-21 standoff, thrown a lifeline by Huddersfield after being released by Wigan because of a string of injury problems, is due to form a partnership with the Test scrum-half, Bobbie Goulding, to lift his new side away from the hoftom spot in Super League

they occupied last season. However, the new Huddersfield coach, Malcolm Reilly, has decided against risking Wright in the New Year's Day match against Halifax. After being out of the game for so long, he needs a bit longer to get himself organised," Reilly said.

Also missing will be Huddersfield's new Australian signing, David Boughton, but they expect to be otherwise at fullstrength.

Great Britain's current first choice stand-off, lestyn Harris. returns to Leeds' team for their friendly against Castleford the same day. Harris missed the Boxing Day game against Halifax with a groin strain, but has been passed fit to take his club position of full-back tomorrow.

Leeds also have their two Australians, Brad Godden and Marc Glanville, back in their side, but two teenagers of whom great things are expected this season, Karl Pratt and Kevin Sinfield, retain their places.

Leeds' chief executive, Gary Hetherington, wants to organise a testimonial match for the wife and two children of Roy Powell, the former Leeds player who died at the age of 33 after collapsing at training with Rochdale Hornets this week. Hetherington hopes to stage a match involving players from the four Yorkshire clubs for which Powell played - Leeds, Bradford, Featherstone and Batley - next month.

Rochdale have already decided to put the proceeds from their New Year derby against Oldham into a fund for the family. The players will wear black bands, in memory of Powell and another Hornets player, Karl Marriott, who also died suddenly two months ago.

Bramley, Leeds' tenants at Headingley, have pulled off a coup by signing the former Sheffield Eagles prop, Danny McAllister, from the defunct Gold Coast Chargers.

The Super League new comers, Gateshead, have been told by Hull KR that their Papua New Guinean stand-off. Stanley Gene, is under contract and not available for transfer.

Achilles tendency strikes Gloucester

Bath at Kingsholm on Saturday

icance: both sides are on the

slide after a run of Premiership

defeats and the respective

coaches, Richard Hill and Andy Robinson, are beginning to feel

the heat. Gloucester shelved

plans to name their side yes-

terday - Philippe Saint-Andre,

their French international

wing, is struggling with a thigh

strain - and while Bath were

happy to reveal their hand.

there was still a doubt over Dan

Lyle, the influential American

Ironically, Gloucester meet low last week.

TE MUST be catching. Gloucester's most expensive signing of the season, the former Wales BY CHRIS HEWETT flanker and captain Kingsley Premiership campaign after rupturing an Achilles tendon during the narrow defeat at Wasps last Sunday, thereby emulating Jon Preston, his direct counterpart at neighbouring Bath, who managed to prang himself in identical fash-Harlequins a month ago.

e it not for their bad luck. neither of the West Country's fallen giants would have any Jones' Premiership career

BASEBALL

Mark McGwire, who hit a record 70 name runs for the St Louis Cardi-ials last season, has seen named The Associated Press Male Athlete of the

BOXING

necessage report stating that the le of the Aged bout between loimes and George Foreman been called off was yesterday conied by the promoter Roger Levitt, who said the contest would cahead in the Houston Astrodome

NEW ZEALAND SOUAD (for third Test v India, Hamilton, starting Sat-urday): S P Fleming (capitali), M J Hamilton, S D Bell, R G Iwose, C D McMil-in C L Carms, A C Parore (wicketkeep-t, D J Nash, D L Vetton, S B Doull, G I Jobbs, P J Wiseman

DARTS

SKOL POC WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP (Circus Tavers, Purfleet) First round: Barderson (Eng) bt K Deller (Eng) 3-2; Paylor (Eng) bt R Harding (Eng) 3-0; J Loser (Eng) bt P Lim (US) 3-0. Second round: C Lazaresko (Eng) bt S Brown (US) 3-0: D Smith (Eng) bt M Manning (Eng) 3-1; P Manley (Eng) bt G Stoddart (Eng) 3-0; A Warriner (Eng) bt H Robinson (Eng) 3-2

FOOTBALL

Hartlepool United are lining up a bid to resurrect Peter Beardsley's playing career. The former England international has been contacted by the Victoria Park club after being released by Kevin Keegan's Fulham at the beginning of the month.

Burnley have broken their transfer record – spending £750.000 – to rerecord – spending £750.000 – to re-sign their former defender Steve Davis from Luton Town.

SPORTING DIGEST

Coventry winger, 29, joined Wigan from St Johnstone on a free transfer under the Bosman ruling at the

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(Bingmon), D Farrell (Peterborough), J Lyddate (Scarborough) all 1 match from 2 lan; J Chambers (West Bromwich) 3 matches from 2 lan; D Tremble (Scarborough) 2 matches from 3 lan Pine castions: B Pates Macclesfield, P Clarkson (Bactopot) both 1 match from 1 lan, 5 Thompson (Crester), 1 control of the cast of the cast

start of this season but only start-

fer under the Bosman ruling at the start of this season but only started six games for the Second Division club. Hearts have also signed Derek Lilley, the former Morton striker, on loan from Leeds United.

RE-ARRANGED DATES: FA Carling Premiership: Mon 1 Mart Levester *Leeds (from Sot 2.7 Feb). Nationwide Football League: Tile. 26 Jans. Fromerham v Cardiff (from Sot 2. Jan); Sun 28 Mar Peterborough v Mansheld (from Sot 2.7 Feb). Nationwide Football League: Tile. 26 Jans. Fromerham v Cardiff (from Sot 2. Jan); Sun 28 Mar Peterborough v Mansheld (from Sot 2. Jan). Supplementations from 2 Jan; C Hansson (Derby) 2 matches from 2 Jan; C Hansson (Derby) 2 matches from 2 Jan; G Grimandi (Arsenal) 3 marches from 5 Jan; Piec cautions: C Morton (Derby), D Beckham (Man Utd). G Festa (Middlesbrough). C Perry (Mimbedom, D Ponnell (Derby); P Wanchope (Derby) all 1 match from 2 Jan; I Harte (Leeds Utd. 1 match from 3 Jan; I Harte (Chailton) 1 match from 4 Jan Football Languet Sendings-off; L Steele (Shrevs-bury) 1 match from 1 Jan; T Browne

borough). C impodations (Sherinet North of the hoth of match from 3 Jan, S Walters (North 1 match from 4 Jan. Eight cautions: J Hoyland (Scarborough 1) match from 2 Jan HARP NATIONAL LEAGUE OF RESLAND CUP Final second legs Cort City 1 Shamrock Rovers 0 (aggr. S-1).

PONTINS LEAGUE CUP Group One: Hartiepool 0 Middlesbrough 4.

TUESDAY'S LATE RESULTS: FA Carling Premiership: Chelsea 0 Manchester Utd 0: Leeds 2 Wimbledon 2. Nationsvide Football League First Dhistor: North 1 Whitford 1. Second Division: Gillingham 1 Millwall 1 Scottish Premier Leaguer Aberdeen 1 Motherwell 1: St. Johnstone 1 Durfermine 1. Scottish League Second Division: Alica 2 Setting 2 Ryman Leagues Second Division: Micropolitan Police 0 Routing 2 Unifer Sixter County League Second Division: Micropolitan Police 0 Routing 2 Unifer Sixter County League Second Divisions Metropolitan Police 0 footing 2 Unijee Sussex County League First Divisions Burgess Hill 3 Rechill 1; Langney Sports 2 HSSocks 0; Pagham 1 Chichester 0; Ringmer 1 Hailsham 1. Jew-son Wessex League Cup second round second leg: Newbury 1 Bournemouth 3; Lymington B Brockenhurst 0. Jewson Eastern League Cup second round: Há-stead 0 Felustowe Port & Yown 3; Norwich Helbed 0 Dec A.

> HOCKEY WOMEN'S UNDER-21 REGIONAL TOURNAMENT (Milzon Keynes): South 3 North 3: Midlands 1 West 1. West 0 South 1, North 3 Midlands 2. Phinal positions: 1 North 7pts: 2 Midlands 4: 3 South 4: 4

ICE HOCKEY NHL: Tampa Bay 3 NY Islanders 0; Philadel-phia 4 Calgary 3 (of); Montreal 5 Edmon-ton 2, Colorado 4 Vancouver 2.

TODAY'S NUMBER

lm

The amount in dollars that striking Greek First, Second and Third Division football clubs are demanding in pools money from the state.

S Wilson (Rochale), I Doolan (Barnet), I Con (Beun emouth), R Thomas (Brighton), L Ashcroft (Grimsby), R Ryan (Milwall), M Maifey (Sunderland), W Hackett (Mansfield), D Kerr (Mansfield), 5 Davis (Swindon), D Reates (Wallsall) all 1 match from 2 Jan; S Rennison (Scarborough), C Wioodhouse (Sheffield Utd) both 1 match from 3 Jan; S Walters (York) Lawer from 4 Lin (Eight caretines). I Howe

role as backs specialist.

on my plate," he explained.

at the Memorial Ground, has al-

ready lined up a replacement

and expects to confirm the ap-

pointment before his side's Tet-

ley's Bitter Cup match with

London Irish on Sunday week.

Darryl Jones, who split the

coaching duties with Egerton

last season, will continue in his

NORDIC SKIING NORDIC SKIING
WORLD CUP (Obermiesonthal, Ger)
Combined event: 1 H Manninen (Fin)
7.5km cross-country race 19min 49 7sec,
ski jumping 121.5pts: 2 k Brazten (Nor)
+1.3sec. 1.24 5: 3 S Lajunen (Fin) +34.3,
119.0: 4 A Harmann (Swit) +492, 116.0:
5 F B Lundberg (Nor) +54.4, 109.5; 6 B E Vik (Nor) +55.3, 108.0, 7 L Rygl (Cz Rep)
+55.9 1.06.0: 8 M Zanachi (Swit) +1min
03.8sec. 108.5 Standings (after seven
events): 1 Manninen 935pts: 2 Vik 625; 3
F Gottwald (Aut) 515: 4 Rygl 438; 5 Hartmann 420

A New Year's Eve party may elude A New Year's Eve party may elude even the frontrunners on the second leg of the Around Alone Race from Cape Town to Auckland. Light winds have slowed the leader, Glovanni Soldini, whose Fila has a 200-mile advantage with 350 miles to go over Britain's Mike Golding in Team Group A Still in fourth place. Team Group 4. Still in fourth place is Isabelle Autissier, who has closed the gap to just 20 miles on the Frenchman ahead of her, Marc Thiercelin, and Josh Hall in fifth place has reduced to 900 miles the dis-tance between himself and Soldini. At the top of Class II, with 800 miles to go, Jean-Pierre Moligne has stretched his lead to nearly 500 miles over Britam's Mike Garside, with the American Brad van Liew third, another 350 miles astem,

SKI JUMPING The German Martin Schmitt won the opening event in the Four Hills tournament yesterday to take his sea-son's tally of wins to five. The 20-year-old Schmitt, who was un-known before this season, is now favourite for the 47th Four Hills

FOUR HILLS COMPRITITION (Oberst-

FOLIR HRLS COMPRITTION (Oberstdorf, Ger) First round: 1 M Schmitt (Ger) 244.8pts (jumps of 120.5m and 175.5m); 2 A Goldberger (Aut) 242.8 (119.0, 114.5); 3 N Kassi (Japan) 241.7 (120.0, 114.0); 4 A Widnotzi (Aut) 239.3 (124.0, 109.5); 5 J Ahonen (Fin) 238.6 (117.0, 115.0); 6 K Funald (Japan) 237.8 (118.0, 113.0); 7 H Myshina (Japan) 232.9 (118.0, 112.5); 8 K Voshoka (Japan) 232.7 (116.0, 108.0), World Cup standings (after nine rounds); 1 Ahonen 653pts; 2 Schmitt 640; 3 Funald 478; 4 Kassi 372; 5 Widholzi 312, 6 M Aagheim (Nor) 261

TODAY'S FIXTURES

ICE HOCKEY **SEKORDA SUPERLEAGUE:** Cardiff Dev ils v Brackneli Bees (4,0).

OTHER SPORTS DARTS: Skel PDC World Championship

Duff sets North on the way to victory

weight to the virus that laid him lowing the departure of David JOANNE DUFF, the Loughbor-Egerton. The former Bath and ough Students' sweeper, set Jon Callard will play, howev- England No 8 cited business a decision that leaves Matt and family reasons for his defirst-minute penalty corner cision. "My wife is expecting in strike as they overcame the February and I have too much holders, Midlands, 3-2 at Milton Bob Dwyer, director of rugby

Keynes yesterday. The match should have been over when, in the 17th minute, Clare Hesslewood added a second for North, but Kate O'Riley pulled one back from a penaltv stroke. Sally Wright scored a South equaliser seven minutes into the second half but North's winner came from Sandeep Kaur in the 57th minute.

Midlands had flattered to deceive earlier when they were held to a 1-1 draw with West O'Riley put them ahead with Nina Emery equalising midway

come a two-goal deficit to draw 3-3 with North in an exciting standing. South earned their only victory over West thanks to a Vicky Goodacre goal.

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SP()RT



ENGLAND TO FACE SPIN WIZARD WARNE P25 INICHOLSON STILL KING OF THE CASTLE P24

Red mist rises for men in black

see the Derby forward ex-

pelled, but not his Middles-

Dietmar Hamann's case re-

sembled Leboeuf's in that the

tion was triggered by a far

second yellow card for the

sent off for violent conduct -

Stefanovic, Vieira, Wanchope,

Hamann and Leboeuf - are for-

eign imports, although it sup-

It may be no more than a co-

brough adversary.

Newcastle player.

BY TRADITION, the Christmas football programme sorts out the contenders from the pretenders. This year it seems to have been operating to an entirely different agenda. If Philip Don, the Premier League referees' officer, had wanted to create an exercise with which to examine the way the English game is conducted by its officials, he could hardly have invented a more striking test. Half a dozen sendings-off appeared to confirm the view of English refereeing widely held abroad – in Italy, for example, where an official giving a lax or inconsistent performance is to referees," Don said. "Only said to have conducted his arbitration all'inglese.

potential champions at Stamford Bridge, Mike Riley seemed to change his mind over giving Franck Leboeuf a second yellow card for a 79th-

thus allowing the Chelsea captain to stay on the field and complete his side's goalless draw against Manchester United. Not surprisingly, Alex Ferguson, the United manager, thought he should have been sent off. More unexpectedly, Leboeuf and his coach, Gi-

anluca Vialli, agreed. Riley defended his decision yesterday, and was supported by Don, who had been stung by Ferguson's accusation that he had imposed "his vision of football" on the Premier League's officials.

"I do not issue instructions Fifa and the FA can issue those instructions. At the beginning In Tuesday night's clash of of the season all clubs are invited to send their manager to the interpretations. I shall leave you to draw your own con-



RICHARD WILLIAMS

Fifa's desire to remove violence from football has confused English referees

a meeting with me where we discuss the law changes and Not, presumably – although the man in charge of England's top referees perhaps ought to think again about the

wisdom of using such elliptical formulations when delivering

The Stamford Bridge incident followed several contro- that its effect was exaggeratversial expulsions over the weekend At Blackburn on Sat- Paulo Wanchope's pugilistic urday Dermot Gallagher listened to his linesman's advice and sent off Michael Oakes, the Aston Villa goalkeeper, for handling the ball outside his area. Later, having looked at the video, Gallagher announced that he would be asking the FA German defender's first cauto quash the player's automatic one-match ban.

On Monday, four of the day's foul on Steve McManaman eight Premier League matches featured dismissals, all of them disputed. No one argued about the second yellow card for Dejan Stefanovic of Sheffield Wednesday against Aston Villa: both managers, however, questioned his first caution. Television suggested not merely that Patrick Vieira's red card for the

use of an elbow against Neil players are unfairly treated, a children and sponsors appears Redfearn had been provoked view voiced by Vialli after the recent Paolo di Canio affair. by the Charlton player's illegitimate harrying, but also More worrying, whatever

ed by Redfearn's play-acting. vidual cases, is the impression of judicial inconsistency. Our ofreaction to Andy Townsend's ficials no longer benefit from an assumption of British fair-play vicious tackle was enough to which meant that when Jack Taylor gave a penalty to West Germany in the first minute of the 1974 World Cup final, or Clive Thomas whistled for fulltime as Zico's header zoomed towards the net eight seconds worse offence - a damaging into injury time of Brazil v Sweden four years later, their objective judgement was not in than the one that brought a question, although (in the latter case, at least) some may have wondered about their

incidence that all five men common sense. Fifa's desire to remove the last vestiges of physical contact from football, inspired by the intention of its new president,

to have confused the English -although, to judge from what one sees on television, virtually the rights or wrongs of indino one else seems in such a quandary. In Serie A, for instance, players argue with referees within a framework of common acceptance of the

meaning and intention of the

game's laws. Philip Don believes that fulltime salaried referees are the answer, and is a member of a four-man working party currently looking at the wider implications of his plan, which would see up to six such offiees' £400 match fee and expenses, bringing them clos-

English football needs to take serious steps to fend off the growing demand for the use of a fourth official, with access to video replays during matches - a development that would do irreparable harm to the game. The standard of linesmen, which seems to have deteriorated markedly since they were rechristened "referees' assistants", demands particular attention.

To some extent, the problem has been created by television's desire to participate in the game it subsidises, and to make use of its evolving techcials appointed in time for the nology. But TV replays are start of next season. If the never going to be subject to re-Premier League chairmen re- striction. And again, the Italian ject his proposal at their next example suggests that their inmeeting in March, he will sug-fluence need not be destructive. gest an increase in the refer- All it takes, in a game that will never be in a better position to throw money at a major prober to the rate for the job in lem, is a willingness to behave ports the contention that such Sepp Blatter, to make it safe for other major European leagues. like professionals.

Gullit declares £4m Domi a shrewd deal

IF THE increasingly demanding followers of Newcastle United were wondering what Ruud Gullit would be presenting this Christmas, then the manager answered their entreaties vesterday by unveiling a reassuringly expensive defender.

The left-back Didier Domi completed a £3.25m move from club Salernitana 48 hours to de-Paris St-Germain to St James' cide whether to accept Liver-Park when he signed a four-and-pool's £2.6m offer for the a-half-year contract which will include a further £750,000 based Song. Houllier is also chasing on appearances. Not bad for a Dundee's £1m-rated keeper 20-year-old who has yet to break into the senior French side.

Gullit defended the decision to invest in youth. "Nowadays, the youth players are also getting more expensive, especially when it is an international and deal has just 18 months to run. someone who has already Domi was not registered in time to figure in Saturday's FA Cup third-round tie with First with Roma this weekend.

Division Crystal Palace. Gerard Houllier was also seeking to beef up his Liverpool squad yesterday, with the defender Frode Kippe looking set to become the latest Norwegian to arrive at Anfield and the hunt for a new goalkeeper upper-Kippe, a 19-year-old centre-

FOOTBALL BY ANDREW MARTIN

back from Lillestrom, has been signed for an initial fee of £700,000, rising to around £2m

if he proves a success. Houllier has given the Italian Cameroon defender Rigobert Robert Douglas to replace the American Brad Friedel, who is unlikely to be granted a new work permit as he has made so few appearances this season. David James is the No 1 but his

One goalkeeper likely to be played for several seasons for making a swift exit from the Paris St-Germain," he said. Premiership at the end of the season is Aston Villa's Mark Bosnich, who will hold talks

Coventry have signed 20vear-old Danish keeper Morten Hyldgaard for £200,000 from Ikast and agreed a loan deal for the Venezia striker, Stefano Gioacchini. They have sold defender Jean-Guy Wallemme to Sochaux for £400,000. Domi photograph,



page 27 Winning streak: Cliff Lazarenko, the white-shirted hero of darts' heyday, enjoys a return to form on the oche at the PDC World Championship yesterday

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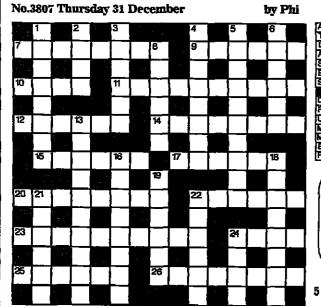
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- Parent

Tarren

THE P.

THE THURSDAY CROSSWORD



ACROSS 7 Pupil taking in convict for protection (8) Collection of tablets

elates Dicky (6) 10 Bars much-hyped bridge 11 Sailor Bill embraced by 24 brothel-keeper? It's

what goes on over the 12 Tell otherwise if leading 26 One's against me backto conclusion of testimo-

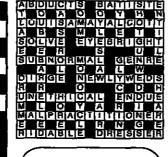
14 I obtain one sneakily from the outset (2,6) trade to ignore first four items (6) 17 Gives a meaning to

numberless challenges 3 20 Rather thin greeting giv- 4 Convert that is clutching

That's about right (8) 22 Glass container with hole - shock! (6) 23 Carefree holiday island with plenty skipping work! (10) Nest's uninteresting,

without first of eggs (4) Writing s-statement of belief (6) ing operatic song or reli-

DOWN Plant responding to sun no result in a storm (8) Crucial crosswords finally give solutions (4) Some primitive art (hysterically crude) (6)



decorated missal (8) Taking pessimistic view of time-saving possibly

Note about a regulation in African nation (6) A piano's inferior to noble feature of organ (6) 13 Be trendier, unconventional - choose an exotic

Meet company with sort of knowledge not gener-ally available, we hear

18 Fish in flustered dive swallowed by marine creature (3-5) 19 Opera hat? (6) 21 An accomplished old disrupter of govern-

ments (6) 22 Funny man, a good one, into mockery (6) Some made a fortune ignoring the words of others (4)

Big Cliff's resurrection shuffle leaves Circus in carnival mood

THE ATMOSPHERE at the Circus Tavern when the darts players are in town is an assault on the senses. You can see it, taste it and smell it, thanks to the combined efforts of a couple of smoke machines and several hundred dedicated PDC World Championship on He was an 11-4 chance before puffers. Your eardrums bulge when someone hits a big checkout. And when you shift your rolling back the years this feet on the Tavern carpet, there is a faint stickiness, the legacy of a thousand spilled lagerand-blacks.

There is nothing in sport quite like it, especially when a legend of the game is about to are not many of them left, the men who were household names in the late 1970s and 80s. a time when small children would write to Jimmy Saville claiming that their greatest Bristow. The fortunes of people such as Jocky Wilson, Bobby George and the Crafty Cockney if anything, he is even heavier. himself have tended to mirror those of darts as a whole. Bristow, for one, was embarrassingly poor as he lost every leg of his first-round match in the

Lazarenko's Lazarus act is proving the main draw at darts' world championship, where the beer flows and the arrows fly true. By Greg Wood in Purfleet

Monday night. One man, though, has been

week, and the fans were queueing from mid-morning yesterday to see him. It is 23 years since "Big" Cliff Lazarenko walked off a building site and into the uncertain life of a professional darts player. Even in make his way the oche. There a sport with little time for weight-watching, his nickname came naturally. Lazarenko is big in the same way that water is wet, and, just in case anyone is in any doubt, there is the trademark white shirt, which wish in life was to meet Eric does nothing to flatter his figure. He was the wrong side of

20 stone even then. These days, Lazarenko never had the killer instinct of Bristow, or the wild streak of Wilson, but he never kept his feelings in either, and the fans still love him for it.

his match with Steve Brown yesterday, which in a two-horse race is almost no-hoper territory. For the hundreds sweating in the Circus pea-souper, though, he was the main man, and they stamped, yelled and sang their approval for every

ton or winning double. Big Cliff scaked it up, and then started to give it back. The first leg of the match went to Brown, but then Lazarenko took three in a row and with them the first set. Ten minutes later, as he claimed the second set too, he tried a little dance. It turned out to be more of a wobble, but the crowd knew what he meant and the roars grew louder still.

For Brown, it was all too much. His shots at doubles were drifting into adjacent beds, while Lazarenko's arrowed their way to the cen-

tre of their target. With three of the next four legs, Big Cliff was into the quarter-finals, and the player and his army of followers punched the air as one.

He is still among the outsiders to win this, the first of two so-called world championships which will be played out over the next two weeks. Phil Taylor, the winner at the Circus Tavern for the last four years, is as close to unbeatable as any darts player has ever been, and would start as hot favourite for the rival championship, the Embassy at Frimley Green, were he eligible to play. In its present fractured state, though Lazarenko's sudden rejuvenation could be just what darts

"A while back I was going through the motions," he said afterwards. "I even put the darts away for two or three decided to go upstairs and practise. I've gone back to the nitty-gritty, to the way I was. I'm being a bit raw."

And putting on a show, keeping the punters happy. "The PR people might say that the Big Cliff white shirt is old hat," be said, "but if I walked out in dull blue, they wouldn't be able to relate to me. I still remember where I came from, I know how it feels if you're not up there playing, so if I can give something back of the feeling I get from being on stage, why the hell not? I love this game, and it has deteriorated for long enough. It's. time now for it to grow again."

Darts will never again grip the public consciousness like it did 20 years ago. Even when all things 1970s were briefly fashionable again recently, darts was not invited to the party. Yet when Big Cliff goes to the oche once more tomorrow night, the thoughts and hopes of thirtysomethings everywhere will go

with him. As the man himself put it yesterday: "The big fella is playing well. End of story." aying well. End of story.
Results, Digest, page 27

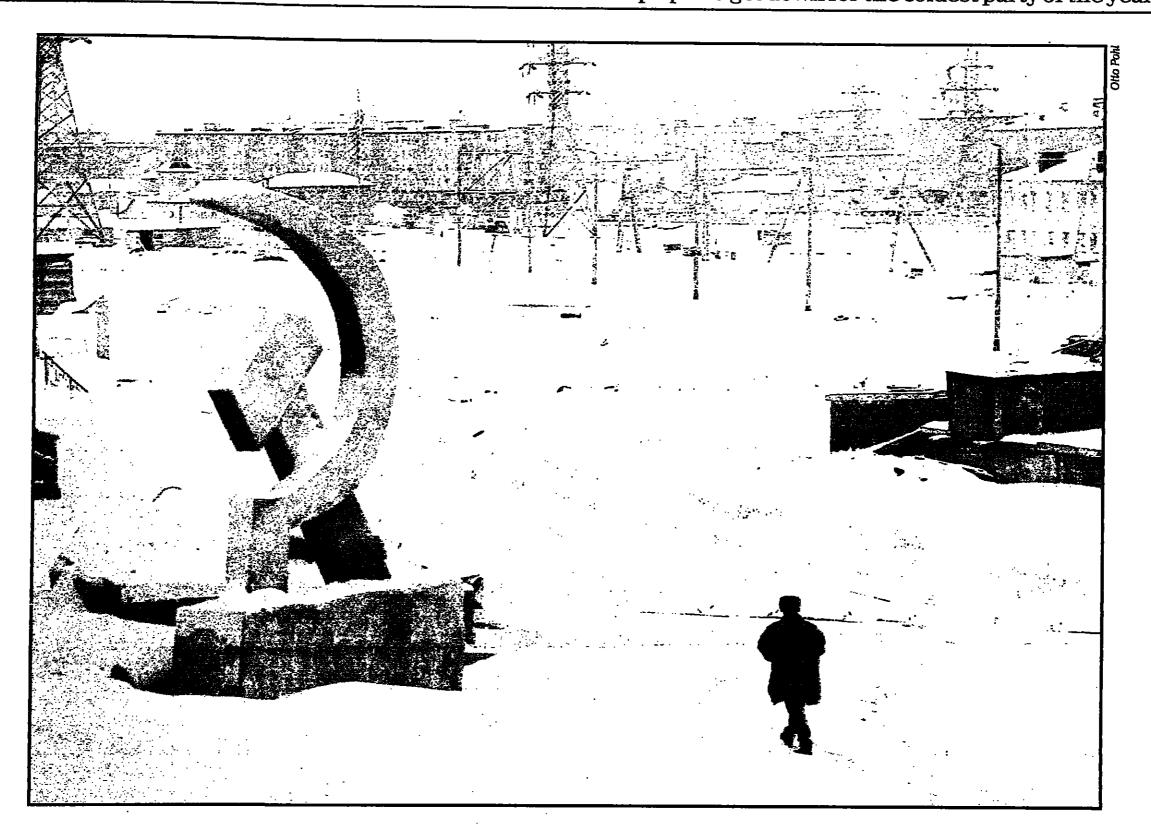
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THURSDAYREVI

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • **TELEVISION**

Anadyr in Russia's frozen far north is the last place on earth that you'd choose to see in the new year. But, by a cruel twist of geography, it'll be the first to greet the new millennium. Wrap up and get down for the coldest party of the year...



Of all the places in all the world, the century had to pick this one

his is where Time Present meets Time Past. A few score miles to the east, across the frozen Bering Sea, lies the International Dateline, the United States and yesterday. Head west across the tundra, and you also traverse back in time through the 24-hour-sized segments that girdle the planet. There is no later hour than here: this is the first time zone, one of its bleakest parts. It is here, in Russia's far north-east, that

in some year's time this millennium will quietly slide ine next. Long before the citizens of London, Paris and New York have gathered to toast the first few seconds of the New Age, it will have dawned here on a world which, though permanently ahead of the clock, is heading backwards.

Welcome to Chukotka, the meeting point between Asia and the West, a region the size of France but which now has a smaller population that Reading. Welcome, to be more precise, to Anadyr, the regional centre where we have arrived as guests of the governor at the start of a four-day odyssey over the Arctic lands which he seeks to rule.

When, on 1 January, 2000, the sun finally drags itself above the horizon for a few sallow hours, it will illuminate these wide streets of ice, these dreary apartment blocks, shacks on stilts, and empty steel containers (testimony to the steady depopulation). In Fiji, New Zealand or Vanuatu, which share its time zone, the next century's first view of the world will surely be idyllic - but not here.

It is Saturday, but we are wondering where most of Friday went. On Thursday evening we boarded our charter plane in Moscow - nine hours' flying

night we disembarked. Our party comprises about dollar a kilo). The residents hang plastic bags of it gy. Severed from their roots and traditions, the where nothing else is certain. "You get used to it," a dozen Moscow-based journalists and a blonde, mink-wrapped Moscow TV star called Aida Nevskaya, who seems to spend her time scouring the empty landscape in search of fans, and who bafflingly - has brought her sunglasses with her. Some of the group say they caught a glimpse of the day through the plane window, a red rag of light waved briefly at us from the horizon. But most of

So Saturday it is. Today our host, the governor. a stout and energetic man called Alexander Nazarov, summons us to tell us about Chukotka's economic prospects and problems. We are here because he is keen to attract international investment in the gold industry, as his semi-autonomous region has the second-largest reserves in Russia. He also reveals that he is planning to erect an international hotel in Anadyr, where the world's media can stay when they arrive to cover the opening of the mil-

lennium (the BBC is already expressing interest). Later, he tells me that he has "big plans" for the special day. "We will set the tone for the new millennium," he declares. He doesn't, however, give

Certainly, the new hotel is a good idea. The current one is a run-down Soviet affair where the governor's enthusiasm for the new millennium is not shared by the staff. "We aren't interested," says Tanya Simkochova, 41, an administrator. "We have more important worries." Like, for example, wages: she hasn't been paid for four months.

Anadyr also needs a new restaurant. There are only two in town, one of which is a gloomy little dive that calls itself a pizza house. Here I am given a bun, with reindeer meat buried in it. Everyone eats reintime and nine time zones away - and late Friday deer here, even for breakfast (it costs just over a

out of their apartment windows. In these temperatures, there's no need for a freezer.

Max, a client of the pizza house, looks like a reindeer-eater. He is a human tank with a tundra-like, quarter-inch haircut whose drink-fuelled desire to speak English far outweighs the minor inconvenience that he doesn't know any. But it is clear that the young man is not happy. "We - have - big - girls," he says, gesturing at a table of women. Why, he asks

- switching to Russian - won't we dance with them? So this, we can assume, is what New Year's Eve

BY PHIL REEVES

1999 will look like in Anadyr. At the end of the room, a solemn-faced man dressed like a Sixties Butlins redcoat is playing the "Macarena" on electric guitar. Soon the big girls are dancing hard, their feet thumping the worn floorboards.

SUNDAY: We set off in a 14-year-old Soviet AN-24 propeller plane north for Egyekinot - an old Gulag town - and then on by a battered Mi-80 helicopter to Konergin, a hamlet of 700 people mostly occupied by Chukchis.

History has been unkind to the Chukchis, the region's largest non-Russian ethnic group. For centuries, they lived on the tundra, subsisting on reindeer herding and hunting whale and walrus. while Russians, Americans, Britons and other adventurers swept in and out in search of furs and gold. But the Soviets decided to collectivise their herds a task that they were still struggling to accomplish by the Fifties) and put their children into boarding schools to force-feed them with Moscow's ideoloChukchis fell victim to drink and social despair. They are now a favourite butt of Russian jokes - like the Belgians to the French.

There will be no pre-millennium tension here; no fretting about which frock to wear, or which party to go to. Here, like Anadyr, there are more pressing matters, such as survival. Any Chukchi born today is not likely to make it beyond four decades or so: average life expectancy has fallen to between 40 and 45. For most adults here, their experience of the next millennium is likely to be fairly brief.

MONDAY: It is beyond comprehension that anyone should live in a place as cold as this. The low hills and forests of central Chukotka are cloaked in a grey haze of deep, deep refrigeration. It is like glimpsing the Ice Age. At minus 49 Celsius, the air is so cold that it scalds the lungs.

A rouble banknote held between the fingers turns brittle in seconds. A half-eaten Mars bar turns so hard you can cut yourself with it. Touch a metal door handle without gloves, and you hit the pain zone where the fingertips cannot tell if they have been

We have flown west to Bilibino, 60 miles north of the Arctic Circle. The 11,000 residents (half the town's Soviet-era population) have various means of keeping warm - we meet one woman wandering around clutching a hot water bottle under her fur coat - but the main source of heat comes from a big concrete atomic power station a few miles out

You might think that Bilibino's residents are none too happy about living on top of a nuclear station. Far from it. They like the plant. It guarantees them heat and light, treasured services in an ice-world

says Ludmilla Dubina, a school librarian, who has lived here 23 years. "It is better to live near an atomic station, and have heat, than not to have any."

Vladimir Boiko, the local police chief, was living in Ukraine, his native republic, when Chernobyl blew up in 1986; yet he, too, has nothing bad to say about the power station. "What do I care? At least we're warm," he grins. And that's true: Bilibino almost seems to revel in its round-the-clock heating: in the foyer of the sports centre, there are lemon trees

The governor is keen to show off his nuclear plant, so we drive there across the ice roads in Jeeps, their interiors lined with thick carpet to keep out the cold. Within, it is smart, bright, clean and busy. The conference room, where the acting director meets us to explain how his plant abides by international safety standards, is adorned with plaques proclaiming its excellence. These would have been more reassuring if several cameramen had not managed to get into the reactor area, unescorted and unprotected, while the governor's party and the staff gathered to toast each other with cognac.

The governor and his crew know they can get out of here. Vladimir Vodolaziski, 54, duty officer in the station's control room, moved to Bilibino 20 years ago, and cannot afford to leave. "I came here as a voung romantic, and ended up a prisoner," he remarks. A prisoner trapped in an Arctic nuclear power station, thousands of miles from anywhere. You can hardly make a worse start to the new millennium than that

TUESDAY: You need to drink to keep warm, to keep your spirits up in this twilight world. I entirely Continued on page 2



<u>etters</u> eaders and comment

Features Education Arts and Film

Listings Radio

Beware the euro

Sir: On the eve of European monetary union, I am held by a terrible fear. Many newspapers have reported that a monetary union on mainland Europe would create an economic force supported by 270 million people or so to rival the United States. This is the critical part of this whole terrifying affair.

The economic force of the euro will be such that, should it succeed. it will create a fragile world market, based around two major currencies and building trading rivalries between Europe and the USA. This is not only dangerous for world economic stability, but bears striking similarities to a proto-Orwellian world political situation. Smaller nations will be squeezed tighter and tighter and forced to compete more and more for their share of the market. This will naturally encourage collectivisation of economies elsewhere in the world on the lines of the European model, for example in Africa and South-East Asia, where security would surely be found in size.

Should the euro fail, on the other hand, then there would follow a period of austerity in European economies and the world markets as national monetary systems restarted. Either way, it cannot be beneficial to anyone either in the union or outside it.

Therefore, I implore the Government and the people of Britain, indeed the free world, to oppose this dreadful, sinister agglomeration of states. ALEX LEE Worcester

Sir: You seem to be taking the information for your articles on the launch of the euro straight from the EU Commission's (dis)information newsletters (Countdown to the euro, 29 December).

You assert that governments have actually created public opinion against the euro. In the richer countries, it is not necessary to create anti-euro feelings. There can hardly be a more pro-European government than that of Germany. The German public was exposed to a deluge of pro-European propaganda; there is no credible political opposition to the euro in Germany. Yet, the public remained for a significant part anti-euro. The public (not only in Germany!) trust the Deutschmark and don't see why it should be taken away.

Your article about the euro and France focuses on the euro-education of the young. Yet, whilst French public opinion is just about in favour of the single currency, the majority of the young (aged 16-25) actually oppose the abolition of the franc:

That those countries with weak currencies are in favour of the euro and those with stable. currencies (such as Britain and Germany) are against. The true function of the euro appears to be that of development aid for the poorer EU member states. TOBIAS SCHUMACHER Brussels

Sir: In reply to Austin Spreadbury (letter, 29 December), may I ask two questions?

Could the Eurosceptics explain why a single currency would not expose companies and economies to the market forces they support? And why is it that our

continental cousins, so burdened with the yoke of Brussels, still manage to be more productive and better educated and enjoy a higher living standard than we do? The Eurosceptics, it would

appear, prefer to use the Channel to hide poor education, lack of investment and appalling productivity rather than face the chill winds of Teutonic efficiency. History has some pithy comments on those who try to disguise their weaknesses with a veneer of nationalism JONATHAN DUMBELL London E15

Sir. If multi-ethnic states are "the future" (letter, 23 December) I sure

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity



Panto Season No 4: The musical director, Paul McClure, instructs the chorus in 'Dick Whittington' at the Northcott Theatre, Exeter

John Voos

wish someone would explain that to inevitable suffering of civilian the ex-Yugoslavs, or for that matter to the Russians and Chechens. MICHAEL W STONE Peterborough

Caging Saddam

Sir: I am puzzled by Andreas Whittam Smith's article "Nothing has felt quite right about the attacks on Iraq" (21 December). There must have been innocents among those we bombed at Hamburg, Dresden, Cologne, Tokyo, Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Perhaps we shouldn't have gone to war in 1939. Perhaps we should have taken the view that hundreds of thousands of innocents would die in the liberation of Europe, as they did, and that cost would be too high.

What does not "feel right" is not the attacks on Iraq but the pusillanimous reaction to American and British efforts to reduce its capacity to act aggressively. Or do we have to wait for a biological-chemical attack on Kuwait or Tel Aviv (which would really set off a regional fireball) for the rest of the world to take notice? J D NORMAN London N12

Sir: Since 1945 the declared aim of the international community has been to secure peace by means of a system of collective security, operated through the United Nations, by which any rogue nation will be controlled, firstly by sanctions and secondly by force.

Why is there such opposition to bombing operations against Iraq? Saddam is a monster. If he confined his excesses to his own population, then it would be difficult to justify action against him. He does not, but has attacked his neighbours, using germ warfare against them, and is clearly intent on continuing to develop such weapons and their means of delivery. Not to take action means awaiting the day when Iraq emerges as a fully fledged nuclear power.

If sanctions and air attacks are not acceptable, because of the

populations, then it would seem that there is no means by which a system of collective security can be enforced. The problem of Iraq is the acid test for the post-war foreign policy consensus, such as it is. There seems to be no replacement in sight. D S HOSKINS Edinburgh

Sir: The cat-and-mouse tactics of Saddam Hussein with the UN weapons inspection teams has led, seemingly inevitably, to the recent air attacks. But would it not have been a far better policy to have left Iraq free of sanctions and inspections and to have set up a defence pact with Saudi-Arabia and the Gulf States so that any attack upon any of them by Iraq would have called forth a united response?

The Iraqi people would have been spared much hardship and the opposition forces within Iraq could have been more effective. As it is the Iragis have suffered from the West and have been encouraged to rally round the despot. The possibility of a policy of

Sir: Is it not time this

constructive for the

government did something

approaching millennium?

bank holidays? Locating

What about rationalising our

Easter is a mystery to most

of our present bank holidays

occur between 25 December

December so that the period

further suggest creating a

each equinox.

EMRYS TURNER

Appledore, Devon

Geoff Hoon is "widely

Christmas to the end of

and Whitsun. I suggest moving

from 30 December to 1 January

becomes a three-day holiday. I

three-day holiday at the end of

June and a one-day holiday at

Sir: Paul Waugh reports that

people, no one knows for sure

when Jesus was born and most

rapprochement with Iraq's neighbours and the Muslim world JOHN MERCER Sidcup, Kent

Software option

Sir: Andrew Warren's letter (21 December) is composed around a few standard claims from Microsoft that are usually collectively called FUD - Fear, Uncertainty and Doubt.

Mission-critical applications are today running on open source software. It is not something that will or won't happen in the future. Open source software is based on standards, unlike Windows, which always tries to change the standards to conform to their products instead of the

other way around. Windows does not integrate well with existing products. Unix, however, in all its forms, is readily able to serve files and programs to Windows and to read Windows file systems. And it does so by the open source system called Samba.

"Wider acceptance" has so far

IN BRIEF

Paymaster General despite

made no such objections and

talented minister. Promotions

alone and he will complete any

Sir: Let us fill the empty plinth

tribute to Chad Varah, who has

done more for humanity than

in Trafalgar Square with a

ministerial changes after the

end of the Christmas break.

Lord IRVINE OF LAIRG

Lord Chancellor

House of Lords

London SW1

the promotion of a highly

are for the Prime Minister

expected" to become

objections from me

meant to me that I have been forced to use Windows software. I do so when I am paid for it. At home I use software that is based on standards, integrates well with my existing applications, supports all family members and never crashes. I have the Usenet for support; what it gives me is far, far superior to any phone support from any commercial supplier. BJØRN STEENSRUD

Church of Mammon

Sir: Spending Christmas with close relatives in London, we decided to visit St Paul's Cathedral on Boxing Day. Many others had decided to do likewise, a large number of whom were tourists.

We were amazed to discover that an admission charge of £4 per person had to be paid before access to the cathedral was allowed. Our intention had been to spend a short period in this wonderful building at an appropriate time. We came away disgusted at the cynical and

hypocritical attitude of those who

anyone else I have ever met. He created the Samaritans, who have saved countless lives and offered hope to anyone needing it. The movement went on to become world-wide in one ("Cunningham tries to ston the form or another. I suggest not a feuding", 29 December). I have statue - we have too many in London. Let there be a giant would never stand in the way of telephone of the kind we used when be launched the Samaritans in 1953. It should be carved in stone. Mr LESLIE JERMAN Theydon Bois, Essex

> Sir: Who could fill the empty plinth better than that greatest of Londoners, the man for all seasons", and the "person of greatest virtue this kingdom has ever produced" -Thomas More? **LORNA ARNOLD**

contrive to make money in this way. We noticed that the tourists looked puzzled but paid up. One British family, not realising that money was necessary, started to walk past the barriers but were

called back to pay. They also left. We have, on many occasions, entered cathedrals here and abroad and given willingly and generously towards upkeep. Why have compulsory payment in any church or cathedral? Surely this goes against all that the church teaches. Is St Paul's now alongside public monuments, museums, theme parks and places of entertainment. in vying for our cash? Mrs ALWYNE DEAN

Time for change

Sir: As we enter 1999, the issue of Britain's participation in European monetary union is still in the headlines. Yet before such a decision is made, isn't it time we had British monetary union?

Those presenting Scottish banknotes often find they get suspicious glances in England. However, one evening as I was returning from a trip to Northern Ireland, I found myself unable to spend Northern Irish (sterling) notes at Victoria Station. Neither the ticket office nor a succession of snack bars wanted to take the cash a Belfast hole in the wall had given me. I was told that they could take Scottish notes, but that Ulster

money was "too foreign." Eventually, in a state of despair. I headed for the bureau de change. I explained that the money I had was "too foreign" for me to use and asked if they could change it into some Bank of England notes for me. However, I was told that, as it was British money, they wouldn't change it for me. I would have to wait until the following morning and change it in a bank. Clearly the money was "not foreign enough". Is joining the euro the only

way to eliminate these "little local difficulties"? SAMUEL BEST-SHAW West Malling, Kent

Of all the places in all the world...

Continued from page 1 accept that. The climate here is so hostile that its own football team, Spartak-Chukotka - the governor's pride and joy - is based 5,000 miles away in Moscow for most of the year. But vodka for breakfast? To be fair, there was a choice. Bottles of wine and beer also stood on the table. Requests for soft drinks bring puzzled looks from the restaurant waiters.

In the back of Russia's beyond, they seem to drink even harder than they do in Moscow. As we fly around the emptiness of the Arctic in our propeller plane, like the court of a minor medieval potentate, the governor's band of dishevelled aides crack open bottles of cognac and vodka and gobble down chunks of frozen wild goose meat and sausage. Yesterday, several were so drunk that they could barely get off the plane. The governor himself remains restrained, pondering the mighty issues that face him.

This morning we board the AN-24 and fly to Pevek, a port and mining town built on the edge of the Arctic Ocean six decades ago by prisoners at the height of Stalin's fanatical attempts to colonise the north. Thousands of people died in the process.

It is minus 33 Celsius, but there is a brisk wind coming in from the frozen sea that makes it seem even colder than Bilibino. We are walking along the front when an old woman approaches my colleague, Will Englund from the Baltimore Sun. "Cover your nose quickly!" she says. We notice that, although we have only been outside for a few minutes. the tip of his nose has gone bright white, the first sign of frostbite.

Every story here is a sad one. A group of municipal workers have been on hunger strike for a fortnight because they haven't been paid for three and a half years. "This town is quietly dying," says Alla Yev-stigneyevna, 59, the manager of a local grocery store. "It is an irre-

versible process." · And dying it surely is; the population of the surrounding area has fallen from 34,500 in 1991 to 12,500 today, mirroring a fall that has seen Chukotka's population shrivel to 90,000, half the size of a few years ago. The Soviets - Russians, Ukrainians, Belarussians - are steadily moving out, abandoning the landscape again to the Chukchis and reindeer and wolves, But leaving is costly. Like everyone, Mrs Yevstigneyevna also wants to head for the real, light, normal world... if only she could afford a flat somewhere else.

Ten years ago, when he first arrived, this town was fun, says Dr Alexander Maslov. Like everyone, he was lured north by the promise of higher pay. At 32, he is now chief doctor at the Pevek hospital. A few years back, he earned the rouble equivalent of \$1,000 a month, and had a big apartment. The streets teemed with life on holidays. No more. His salary - delayed for months these days, like everyone else's – is worth a fifth of what it once was. "What's happening is very hard to bear," he says.

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Mon-Sat 7 45pm.

So hard that some people seem to be on the edge, grappling with total breakdown. When we go to a bar, a middle-aged woman with bright peroxide hair gives us – by way of a ges ture of hospitality – a plate of slice lemons to eat. We return the con pliment by buying her a bottle Russian champagne.

A conversation starts, but within few moments her mood changes from calm urbanity to tears and anger. "God has forgotten this place!" she bellows, trembling. "We gave everything to the Motherland! But we have nothing now!"

We leave, embarrassed, uneasy, eager now to end this odyssey of the Arctic, unable to offer any suggestion, any hope that would help her, or the rest of this abandoned place, to weather the first years of the new millennium.

Happy New Year, Chukotka, And when it dawns - may the next century be far, far better than the last.

Here is the news forecast for the remainder of the century

YESTERDAY WE brought you a forecast of the main events of the first half of 1999 and today we complete our look at the year ahead.

July Extraordinary development in Pinochet extradition case. One of. the law lords is said to be against "killing" and therefore likely to be biased. Whole case starts again. Millennium Bug is cloned in

laboratory conditions. Favourite for the Booker Prize is a novel written by an Albanian woman, set in Karachi, telling the deeply ironic story of a four-foot high man whose ambition is to be known as the next Merchant/Ivory. England struggle in Second

Bill Clinton is found guilty of perjury, embezzlement and criminal

snogging by Congress. His personal ratings reach an all-time high. Hottest July on record. Global cooling blamed.

Solar eclipse in Cornwall. Not many dead. Scientists think they may have

found cure for cancer. England struggle in Fourth Test. After six months as Britain's film censor, Andreas Whittam-Smith decides to go solo and form his own

Independent Board of Film Control. Geneticists think they may have isolated the gene which causes the urge to alter things genetically.

Richard Branson's attempt to drive first train round the world comes to grief when the 17.32 from **Euston to Birmingham New Street** sinks in the Bering Straits.

Hottest August on record. Solar eclipse blamed.

Scientists think they have found a cure for laddishness.

After Clinton is forced to resign in disgrace as US President, his ratings hit an all-time high. Tony Blair starts second month

of his holiday in Tuscany. Scientists claim to have grown a human hand on the Millennium

After initial success, Andreas Whittam Smith's Independent Film Board hits trouble and is taken overby Mirror Newspapers. England struggle in Seventh

Outbreak of new football season. League champions lose opening fixture. Manager says: "These are



MILES KINGTON

Bill Clinton is found guilty of perjury, embezzlement and criminal snogging

early days. We can still pick ourselves up off the floor. There were a lot of players out there today not giving their all. I shall demand 100 terrorising the countryside. Sciper cent commitment. This has been a recorded interview. That will

September is the most average month on record. Global mediocrity blamed.

October

First Christmas decorations spotcd in Oxford Street.

President Al Gore fails to make mark as new president, as everyone is still obeying ousted ex-president Clinton, who draws enormous crowds everywhere. As Tony Blair starts the third

nonth of his Tuscan holiday, it turns out he has been trying to get home for six weeks, but has no euros to pay his fare. Millennium Bug escapes from

dent Film Board. laboratory, starts cloning itself and

entists think it may have contracted Mad Bug Disease. Darkness, dampness, dankness

and despondency. Global pessimism blamed.

November

Massive last-minute rush for mil-

lennium holidays in Jewish, Buddhist. Muslim and other countries which don't use Christian calendar. Disco disaster in East London. All music systems fail in popular club and crowds run amok. A coded

call from the Millennium Bug claims responsibility. England struggle in 19th Test. Irish money rescues Indepen-

First scheduled London-to-Midlands balloon service disrupted by adverse winds. Richard Branson

promises to get everyone home from Paris by Christmas. Chilly November. Global chilliness blamed

December

Bill Gates in face-to-face talks with Millennium Bug. He comes back claiming victory but speaking oddly. Experts think he now has the Millennium Bug in his system.

Ex-President Clinton seizes power in USA and calls for fresh elections, claiming that he is free to stand again as he never com-

pleted his second term. General Pinochet disappears mysteriously. Experts say that this

is poetic justice. At midnight on 31 December 1999 everything collapses in chaos except Virgin Trains, which start running smoothly on time.

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*THE INDEPENDENT

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Not much honour in a gong fashioned for another age

THE NEW Year's honours list is a hardy perennial. Every year it brings forth the same sparse crop of civil servants and "the great and the good", accompanied by a sprinkling of entertainers and sports personalities.

Many of the individuals honoured have indeed done "good works", as well as entertained us. Only a very few hard-hearted citizens will begrudge honouring the acting of Nigel Hawthorn, awarded a knighthood; Lenny Henry, now CBE, has worked hard for Comic Relief as well as making millions laugh. Sporting achievement, whether of the cricketer Angus Fraser or the heptathlete Denise Lewis, is also recognised.

But that very lack of controversy marks the flaw in this system. We all recognise the achievements of such people: they are feted in the press, and by the public, at the appropriate time of their success. The adulation of crowds and audiences is their life blood, and no amount of official approval makes any difference. The public know greatness when they see it: they do not require prompting to acknowledge it.

It is often those who have passed their best, whose dangerous satirical and artistic edge has been blunted and who have been absorbed into the Establishment, who are honoured. It will be do them little good. Those same satirists have done much to create a meritocratic society, in which many of those honoured have stopped using the letters after their name in everyday life: they are aware of how pompous they would seem if they did.

It is the same with politicians, even though the hope of peace in Northern Ireland has prompted many of the awards. There is again no question that the men and women involved in the peace process have shown political bravery, stamina and commitment. Two men from the New World, in particular, came to the aid of the Old: General John de Chastelain and Senator George Mitchell, chairmen of the talks that led to the Good Friday agreement. They gave up their time and energies entirely voluntarily, and deserve our thanks. But they already had our gratitude before they had letters after their names.

"Ordinary people" - nurses, midwives, policemen - are also recognised today. The honours system, as reformed by John Major when he was prime minister, has made strides in this direction, But New Labour's failure to change it radically is a sign that the whole idea has become obsolete. The mantra of "modernisation", repeated so often, does not seem to extend to this list, grey and uninspiring beyond the facade of celebrity.

There are exceptions. John Major deserves an important share of the praise that has been raining down on Cony Blair, David Trimble and John Hume. He took the risk, with little encouragement from many in his own party,



of engaging with republicans and nationalists. It was his talks process that eventually succeeded. France and the US have the Légion d'honneur and the Congressional Medal of Honour for people who rise so far above what is expected of them. If we reserved honours for such outstanding examples, they would mean more.

Such a system would end the bore of bestowing honours on civil servants. Even though their automatic right to such recognition has been abolished, such a practice has no place in a society no longer willing to accept that the man in Whitehall knows best. In no other field is professional advancement further rewarded with the recognition of the state: why should civil servants be different?

Very few people appear to think this list means anything beyond anachronism, designed as it was for an age when the Court stood at the apex of a rigid social order. When the Government kicks away one of the props of that social order, the hereditary House of Lords, it would do well to reshape the honours system as well.

Can it be right to risk your life for sport?

DISASTER IN the pursuit of sporting success prompts an obvious question: why do people take such risks? The loss of Glyn Charles in the Sydney-to-Hobart yacht race and the death of climbers in the Scottish mountains have combined to bring this question to the fore, for such tragedies are not uncommon. Sportsmen and women are injured all the time, even after their careers have come to a close: the American sprinter Florence Griffiths-Joiner paid the ultimate price for her peak fitness just months ago.

If is, of course, the case that all sports should be conducted with the maximum concern for the wellbeing of the participants. Meteorologists had warned of stormforce winds when the yachts left Sydney. The avalanche warning in the Scottish Highlands had reached three on

a scale of one-to-five before the trainee climbers were taken up above the snow-line. Questions will have to be asked as to whether every precaution was taken.

But, cosseted in our comfortable lives, we recoil from the idea of danger rather more instinctively than logical inquiry suggests. We should remember the dangers we take every day. Thousands of people die on British roads every year. The very act of driving, cycling, or taking the train to work is far more likely to be deadly than the sports we perceive as "dangerous".

And we cannot ignore the fact that some people enjoy danger, and only feel alive when they can sense the peril they are in. Quality of life can supplant length of life for many. We should celebrate such people, and their brave lives which make our existence all the richer, rather than refuse to understand them. In many fields true greatness. sporting or otherwise, can only be attained under the threat of danger: such people have every right to take risks with their own bodies - and their own lives.

Bands gotta split, politicians gotta " plot – can anyone tell me why?

'N MONDAY, idly flicking on to Ceefax, paper yesterday. Those supposedly was alarmed to discover that Boyendorsing such a stance were said to was alarmed to discover that Boyone - the all-male singing and pecral-display band - were thinking of olitting up. Alarmed, because this vould constitute irrational and selfdestructive behaviour. Only one member of Boyzone - the blond, soft-eyed Ronan Keating - has any individual profile whatsoever, the rest are just abs on legs. As long as they stick together they are - for the moment chart-toppers (or whatever you call it these days). Otherwise - ta-ta.

Chefax could, of course have got it wrong. Having recently spotted headlines such as "Jailed immigrant faces deportment" (Ah; the old book on the head routine, I presume) and "Dutch drugs horde seized" (What? Including their horses?), I no longer quite believe everything I read on television. But there was something about the story that rang true. It's a matter of raging ego; bands gotta split - no matter how silly this may seem. And politicians gotta plot, even if there isn't much to plot about.

So, as the Prime Minister's New Year message of tough times ahead, wafted to us on the soft Indian Ocean breezes from the Seychelles, some of his comagues (or their minions) were lettight be known that the days of Tone Alone were numbered, and that they were very much going to be listened to in 1999, thank you very much. Variously there would be curbs on spinning, less lovey-dovey stuff with the Lib Dems and - most important of all - a return to more "traditional Labour values", as backbencher Andrew Mackinlay put it in this newsbe Jack Straw, David Blunkett, Gordon Brown and John Prescott. On the day that Peter Mandelson

and Geoffrey Robinson did their double-resignation act, all of us pundits queued up to say how the Government had been damaged, without really specifying what that damage was. It was possible that key middleclass voters would become suddenly disillusioned with Labour, and return to the Tory fold. But what we rather sensed was that the Mandelson departure would knock some of the stuffing out of Blair, and diminish the leader's authority among his barons. Simultaneously nervous and emboldened, they might begin to bite on their harnesses. They are, after all, grand men and women now.

It seems odd today - after a decade of Tory infighting and of Kinnockian discipline - to recall that Labour was traditionally the party of mutual loathing. The Left has always draped its personal feuds and competing ambitions in the scarlet veil of ideological and political difference. The old joke about the two Trotskyist sects, who meet for a Unity conference and split into six, was substantially true. Certainly, whenever I feel sad I turn to the websites dealing with the catastrophic implosion of Arthur Scargill's Socialist Labour Party, and all my problems fall into perspective. Another reminder is Ken Livingstone's exuberant and constant disloyalty to his party leadership, which - happily - adorns this newspaper



DAVID AARONOVITCH

Tony Blair is not a tribalist. That is what distinguishes him from so many of his Labour colleagues

The trouble is that there is precious little ground for the kind of political division that we have seen in the past. Not much veil, if you like. The economic programme of the Government, for instance, is Gordon Brown's. He is the one who has balanced the demands of prudence and enhanced expenditure on social programmes. So when there is talk of a return to Keynsianism, does that imply a revolt by the Chancellor against his own policies, or merely a way of dressing up existing and agreed priorities?

Is there somewhere a taste within the Cabinet for other old Labour verities, such as a massive extension of public ownership? I thought not. Or how about a redistribution of national wealth using, principally, income tax? Most of the putative plotters are prob-

of stealthily taxing the middle classes decisions, desires government to be in ways that they do not notice, nor attempt to avoid. The cause of egalitarianism is best served, they would all agree, through vast improvements in education and training. I hear few influential voices raised against Dobson's NHS, Straw's Home Office. devolution, House of Lords reform, the Good Friday Agreement or any of the substantial policies of the Govern-ment. Or indeed, even the presentation of those policies.

Which leaves us with those other, more atavistic, anxieties concerning changes to the voting system and the realignment of British politics. One of the themes of the last part of 1998 has been a desperate attempt to discover an ideology to explain today's world, and to help mobilise different armies for its change. Intellectuals such as Will Hutton have called for a more overtly social-democratic and interventionist stance, while equally clever people, such as Michael Ignatieff, have espoused a contrary liberalism. Between them they have embarked upon an attempt to persuade us that we can be one thing or the other-but not both.

Neither of them convinces me. I am not at all sure, were you to put them in separate small rooms and invite them each to write an election manifesto in human-being language, that you would be able to tell which was which. The truth, I think, is that, for the left-of-centre there is no catch-all ideology on offer. What we have instead is a pick'n'mix progressivism. which broadly agrees on the need to ably happier with the Brown method modernise the state and to devolve denied rumours of a split.

more open and more ethical, that believes an objective of government policy should be to ensure that citizens do not get left behind, that abhors discrimination and that believes that human beings are social animals. Now, this is not a "position", it is a continuum, along which many of us are to be found (though we may shift along it from time to time). The "Third Way" is simply an attempt to

find a name for this continuum. This is bad news for those who prefer the security of a tribe. There are many in politics who are natural joiners, part of whose self-definition comes in being able to say who they are not: that they are with the lot who put bones through their noses, and that they are against the rabble from the rext valley who wear penisgourds. Never mind that they all worship the same gods and eat the same monkeys.

Tony Blair is not a tribalist. That is what distinguishes him from so many of his Labour colleagues. He does not believe in the mystical superiority of his team over the other lot, and I think that is why he now leans, intellectually, towards electoral reform. It is also what the voters (quite rightly) like about him. Never mind all the grinding and hip-thrusting of the others, Tony Blair is to Labour what the winsome Ronan Keating is to Boyzone. And insofar as what the other band members have to offer is different to what Ronan has, the fans don't want it. Which is why consulting Ceefax just now, I see that Boyzone have just

QUOTE OF THE DAY

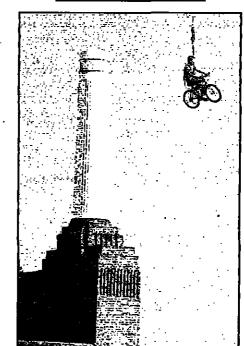
"The sea has such extraordinary moods that sometimes you feel this is the only sort of life and 10 minutes later you're praying for death."

The Duke of Edinburgh

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Never mistake motion for action." Ernest Hemingway, American novelist

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IN MELBOURNE, some were IS CHOKING within sight of hailing England's triumph as a victory a peculiarly Australian miracle. That seems to us weekend, England could yet draw the series and return with their heads held high. We will be keeping our fingers crossed, and in the meanwhile we salute them. The Daily Telegraph, UK

weakness, as many people something of a slight on the have suggested since Australia magnificent performance of again fell short of a modest the Kent fast bowler Dean fourth-innings target on Tues-Headley. With the fifth Test day? The issue is a sensitive still to start in Sydney this one, for it reflects not on the Australians' skill, but on personal qualities such as resoluteness, competitiveness and the ability to keep one's nerve in a tight situation. Sydney Morning Herald,

week after week.

MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD British and Australian comment on the English team's Test victory

THE AUSSIES self-destructed the best side in the world can with the professional stupidity crumble when under the ham-England have displayed all winter. But they did so because England applied pres- when it is almost too late. sure, pressure, pressure. Even The Sun, UK

mer. What a shame England have squeezed the enemy only

play with such spirit did the often the players will savour the heart a power of good. Some moment that they turned the said the Ashes were no longer worth the fuss. England made transformation from no-hopers a nonsense of such notions to national heroes. We may with this forthright display. Sydney had seemed to be a damp squib. But the series resumes with a revived touring party determined to square the account. It should be another cracking contest between these ancient rivals. The Age, Australia

tables. They will wallow in their continue to ruminate in melancholy terms about the state of English cricket. For the moment it should be enough to congratulate them on their win and thank them them for providing a little piece of August in late December.

The Times, UK

TO SEE this beleaguered team Having been dismissed so

RIGHT OF REPLY

ANN ROBINSON



The director general of the British Retail Consortium defends the retail industry

I AM fed up with the charge that retailers in Britain are taking consumers for a ride.

The retail industry is highly competitive and there is no trace of complacency within it. Over the last 10 years the price of goods in shops has fallen in real terms by 13 per cent. In the last year alone, the price of 200 of the most commonly bought goods fell by nearly 1 per cent.

I challenge other industries to match this performance, which has only been achieved by driving down costs and becoming one of the most efficient sectors in the UK. On what basis can it be claimed that there is overcharging when return on capital employed stands at only 6.9 per cent for retailing, compared with 13.6 per cent for wholesaling and 14.3 per cent for all other services?

The strength of the retail industry and one of the key drivers of its excellence has always been competition. If this is increased as a result of the euro or the growth of Internet shopping, it will be seen by the industry as an additional opportunity and not as a threat.

A basket of goods bought abroad compared to the same basket bought in the UK is often used as evidence by those who argue British retailers overcharge, but whether the comparison is favourable often depends on the choice of products.

There are also a number of key trading differences beween countries which expose the bogus nature of many basket-based comparisons. These include obvious factors such as the exchange rate and less understood issues such as the cost of investment in retailing in the UK.

The range and quality of products on offer in the UK has grown significantly over the last 10 years from around 15.000 products available in the large supermarkets to more than 25,000 today. In a recent Mori survey, 78 per cent of consumers said they were satisfied with the quality of goods offered and 88 per cent expressed satisfaction with the range available to them.

It is true that we have intelligent and discerning consumers in the UK and their high level of satisfaction only serves to demonstrate that retailing in this country is

A Muslim Yule shows New Britain at its best

THANK YOU for your cards and good wishes and the delicate way some of you asked if people like me celebrated Christmas. The answer is yes, and with genuine pleasure although, inevitably, there are complications mostly inside our hearts and heads about whether this means the end of our civilisations.

As one of my many wise aunties (all older women in the community are aunties with an absolute right to advise, bully and instruct you) puts it: "The question is whether we are afraid of dissolving like sugar in their pot of tea or whether we are proud that we are making their tea all the sweeter."

This year was affected by the sit-uation in Iraq and by Ramadhan but, nevertheless, around the country British Asians were seen to be doing Christmas in some style and in ways that would have been unimaginable even five years ago. They do so because they are much more confident of their presence and identity than they were then.

It is an expression not of assimilation - which we would reject as cultural suicide - but of a new kind of pluralistic society, where it



YASMIN ALIBHAI-BROWN

Christmas was not a day in 'Hello!', but it was happy, funny, and unpredictably affirming

is no longer necessary to buffet yourself against the cross winds of cultural influence. You know who you are and you believe this to be your nation.

As Nehru said: "I am an internationalist because I am so rooted in India." Once, if you participated in Christmas, you felt like you had stolen someone else's clothes. It was embarrassing and

alienating. You also felt that you were shedding your authentic self.

Even now there are some aspects of the festival that cause discomfort, but we are able to pick and choose what feels right against our skins. Trees in the home and vastly expensive presents (thank God) are still a rarity, and most of us cannot quite grapple with Father Christmas and his role in the birth of Christ. On the other hand, we love our children in the Nativity plays and long for the day when they will be the angels and

not the donkeys and sheep. But this is not only about us and how we are managing the changes that migration brings. What happens at Christmas is a reflection of a far more fundamental evolution within British society.

Just take our family. We did have a tree with lots of lovely golden cherubs (my husband is an exchoirboy after all) plus huge butterflies, eagles and doves. This first confused, then amused, Vera, my mother-in-law from Shoreham, who had met one black person in her life before I turned up, a Muslim divorcee with a young son.

I wore a sari, mainly to reassure

myself that I was maintaining my eastern credentials. My mother Jena came and conspicuously prayed with her tasbi (prayer beads) through the day. Her English is somewhat limited by the fact that she taught herself the lan-

guage by watching soap operas

and Crimewatch, and reading

Woman's Qun. The two women hugged a lot and spoke viciously about thieves and asylum seekers. Vera is hard of hearing though she denies this, so during our conversations, when I failed to understand her strange replies, she repeated her sentences to me

very slowly as if I was a deaf Croat. Colin, my husband, teased Jena by telling her he had stuffed the turkey with pork. She told him eating "pig meat" would make him heartless. We paid for Vera to come. to us by taxi. She was overwhelmed and told us stories about the poverty she had grown up in.

Her gratitude was unexpected and I informed her that as the mother-in-law of an Asian woman she could demand a whole lot more and even slap me around if I irritated her. She seemed very troubled

by this. Then there was the Canadian, married to my cousin, who is our daughter's godmother, and my son, now studying in Edinburgh, who is becoming an ardent Scotsman. It was not a day in Hello!, but it was happy, funny, fraught too, and unpredictably affirming.

I wish these changes were better understood by the ignoramus commentators who use this time of the year to decry multiculturalism, because their precious children are heard singing songs from foreign parts or the lights in the streets of Birmingham are too secular (unlike the lights in Regent Street, which feature the new Christian God Tango) or because in their eyes it is our presence that is killing off Christianity. They rail against these things because, unlike us, they are now in a state of panic about who they are and are desperate not to let go of the false images of cultural pu-

rity and perfection. Devolution is likely to heighten this insecurity. But New Britain already exists. It is a country where de facto integration has surpassed our understanding of it. This is what I found when I was researching my forthcoming book on multiculturalism (to be published by the Institute of Public Policy Research). Social and racial fissures do of course still exist and blight lives, but the story is much more positive than either cultural pedants or adamant ant-racists want to believe.

Political leaders must develop a different narrative about pluralism so that people are able to respond with pride rather than prejudice to what has been achieved. Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, seems to be leading the way. A month ago, he made a powerful statement: "There are those who would retreat from an expansive idea of Britishness into a constricted shell of right-wing English nationalism. My vision of Britain comes not from uniformity but from celebrating diversity. I understand Britishness as being outward-looking, open, internationalist, with a commitment to democracy."

This understanding is already being lived out in Britain by its newest immigrant communities. Perhaps in time their way of living can serve as a model for others.

Have a Happy Multicultural

Declare for the euro now, Mr Blair. But, above all, stop the dithering

THE SCALE of the undertaking is breathtaking and its consequences are radical. Tomorrow, a new currency, the euro, will be born: the deutschmark, French franc and nine other national currencies become regional sub-units of the euro. In three years, they will be abolished. In the interim, the euro will quickly emerge as the principal medium of business and governmental transactions in Europe, and as a major reserve currency and denominator of world trade.

Starting this January, there will be a single monetary policy, with a common interest rate, for the largest integrated economic grouping in the Western world: the euro-zone of some 300 million consumers. Economic and monetary union (Emu) is ouite simply the most ambitious European initiative to be launched since the Second World War.

Sitting on the sidelines, from the illusory comfort of self-imposed exile, there is a tendency in Britain to believe that we can simply wait upon events with equanimity, and judge the success or failure of the single currency in our own time and on our own terms. If only it were so.

In reality, Britain's whole relationship to Europe, and with it our place in the world, is about to change. The single-currency eurozone, five times the size of the British economy and right on our own doorstep, will have subsumed our largest trading market. Outside looking in, we will have to react to an economic order in which others are calling the shots, and from whose key decisions we have chosen

to exclude ourselves. This situation will intensify as Emu widens and deepens: within a decade the euro-zone could comprise 20-plus states. More and more issues will be settled without our voice being heard, on terms we



GEOFFREY HOWE

The euro will quickly emerge as a major reserve currency and world trade denominator

we spend outside, the more difficult we may find it to get in. Another era of agonising reappraisal for Britain - and all too easily one of anguished indecision - is about to begin.

What should we do? First of all. we should wish Emu to succeed, and plan on it doing so. This project is too important for continental leaders to allow it to fail; their commitment to it is enormous and impressive. And second, as a country, we should consciously decide to decide - that is resolve to - sooner rather than later, make a choice for or against membership of the single currency. We should not let the national debate drag on indefinitely, without conclusion.

Most importantly, the Government should. I believe, commit itself to Britain joining Emu, not just in principle, but in practice. Its policy of "if" should become one of "when" and be backed by economic policies designed to maximise the chances of entry. The Government should make serious, practical preparations for Emu membership, so that,

if the referendum is positive, we can enter soon after the people choose. To move ahead on this agenda,

Tony Blair and his colleagues have got to start taking some risks. Britain will not join Emu by accident. Sometimes this Government looks like a football team passing the ball around the pitch, in the hope that eventually it will just end up in goal. But at some point, somebody has to shoot for goal.

The best route open to Mr Blair is to set a target date for UK entry. perhaps January 2003, and say that, provided the economics are right, he intends to put the question to the people very soon after the next general election. In preparation for entry, the Government should make it plain that domestic economic polihave not helped define. The longer cy will be tailored to promoting the necessary degree of cyclical convergence with the euro-zone. In parallel, it should introduce, in this parliament, a "paving" Bill designed to remove legal and other obstacles to membership and use of the euro. As a result, the Government would have established a clear policy; business would have a specific planning horizon, and the electorate would be offered a serious choice.

At the moment, the opposite approach is being pursued. Mr Blair seems to be hoping that political ambiguity will allow him complete freedom in choosing the entry date; that cyclical convergence will happen of its own accord, that business preparations will lead to official ones, and that public opinion will come around to the single currency without the Government risking much political capital on the project. Not so.

The Government has to face the fact that critics will be seeking to highlight every economic problem on the Continent, however minor, as an inherent consequence of Emu. They will manufacture or exaggerate



Jacques Santer (right) and European Monetary Affairs Commissioner Yves-Thibault de Silguy display a model euro coin for the currency's unveiling in May

cently on tax harmonisation - and create bogeymen with ambitions to subvert a thousand years of our island's history. Countering this onslaught will need to be a major priority for the Treasury and for Number Ten.

Equally however, with every day that passes, the immensity of the new economic reality in Europe can and should become more apparent, and with it the opportunities for Britain of positive participation. The eurosceptic ideology of national isolation will seem increasingly at odds with the new economic and political inter-dependence, generated by market liberalism, which lies at the heart of British success in the world today. This is a battle of ideas

which can be won. If Labour's leaders think they can avoid Emu being a key issue at the next general election, they are mis-

threats far beyond reality - as so re- taken. They must prepare the forming, educating and persuading ground now for a strong, robust defence of their euro-policy in 2001 or 2002. If they decline to answer the important questions when the election comes, then entry in the next parliament will prove difficult.

> Worse, equivocation could slip into a temptation effectively to rule out Emu entry in the next parliament in order to close off eurosceptic attack. The game would then be lost. Ministers' panicky responses in October 1997 to self-generated media leaks on the date of Emu entry provide a salutary warning of how things can go wrong when decisionmakers lose their strategic compass.

Overall, the greatest risk to UK entry into the single currency lies, not in the constraint of public opinion, but in the absence so far of sustained pro-Emu leadership from the Government. Evasion, inertia or indecision are no substitutes for inthe electorate about the strong merits of the single-currency case. The introduction of the euro in 11 countries, starting tomorrow, offers a perfect moment to begin that process.

As Kenneth Clarke, Michael Heseltine, myself and others have place clear, pro-European Conservatives will back the Prime Minister in promoting the right policies for Britain - but it is only he and his Government that can give the lead.

The advent of Emu is an opportunity for Mr Blair to demonstrate such leadership. His New Year's resolution should be to act boldly in the national interest. He could well be surprised by the strength of the

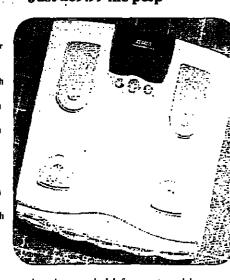
Lord Howe of Aberavon was Chancellor of the Exchequer 1979-83; Foreign Secretary 1983-89, 024, Deputy Prime Minister 1989-90

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Scholing THE ENDEPENDENT BODY PAT SPINITION OFFER (INDUS): Plane in a time has it you do not well to recen-tables often from independent because of the full of companies approved to independent from options (10s) had pages. SUGGESTED NEW Year's resolutions for Tony Blair continue to arrive in Pandora's bulging box as the year draws to a close. (Remember: the deadline is today at noon, in time to forward all, via Downing Street, to the Blair family holiday encampment in the Indian Ocean. The best resolution wins a

bottle of invigorating Orkney Islands malt.) "He should resolve to stop sucking up to Bill Clinton," proposes Peter Larg, a retired soldier from Bampton, Devon. Somewhat elliptically, former Tory chancellor Norman Lamont told Pandora that Blair "ought to resolve to apply to himself the same standards he seeks to apply to others". Bernard Ingham, Margaret Thatcher's former

has two highly specific recommendations: "Be infinitely less pious than he is now, and move the Government away from their ridiculous pre-occupation with the media, which will do them a great deal of damage in the long run." More to come later in this

Downing Street press spokesman,

RICHARD BRANSON'S diary of his recent attempt to circumnavigate the globe in a balloon has been widely

PANDORA

excerpted - with one exception. That is the sign-off to his plea to Libyan strongman Colonel Gaddafi, who had first granted permission to cross Libyan territory, and then rescinded it in mid-flight. "Because of this emergency condition, we simply do not know how to avoid crossing your airspace. We hone that you will grant us emergency permission under these circumstances via your air traffic control services." wrote a desperate Branson. The tycoon ended his missive most endearingly: "I am sir your most obedient servant."

ERIC CLAPTON'S seminal Sixties band Cream return to the spotlight in Disraeli Gears, a new history of the band. Author John Platt explains that "supergroup" Cream, whose performing life was comparatively short, almost separated before they began

because of the animosity between drummer Ginger Baker and bassist Jack Bruce. It seems that Baker had already fired Bruce from a band before the birth of Cream. At the height of the tension between the two musicians. reports Platt, Ginger even

threatened Bruce on stage with a knife. Nevertheless, Clapton insisted that Bruce, a fellow member of John Mayall's Bluesbreakers, join the new group, ensuring that plenty of "creative tension" would produce exceptional music.

> NO LESS than five suggested Blair New Year's resolutions have arrived from vociferous gay rights campaigner Peter Tatchell: "to get a decent baircut; rediscover socialism: appoint Mandelson ambassador for life to Kazakhstan: give John Prescott the power and resources to implement an integrated public transport policy; abolish all forms of discrimination based on age/religion/ sexuality and HIV status". A more measured but

equally topical resolution offered by MP Norman Baker, the Lib Dem transport spokesman: "to find out what the word 'environment' means". Labour MP Paul Flynn, on the other band, urges Blair to "stop taking the tabloids next year". Finally, independent publisher and author Jay Landesman suggests that Blair's resolution should be "to convince Peter Lilley to cross the floor, join the Cabinet and take Mandelson's place at his right hand. Above all, Tony should resist the urge to resign."

JULIET STEVENSON (pictured) is to star in a National Theatre production of Noël Coward's Private Lives next year, Pandora can reveal for the first time. A previous attempt to stage the play with Fiona Shaw in the lead was abandoned; Shaw went on to star in the National's adaptation of Muriel Spark's The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie. The key question is who will play the male lead in Coward's play. It was this problem that scuppered the National's last attempt. The role demands an exceptional actor aged about 40. Pandora's source says all the chief British candidates are too busy earning millions in Hollywood.

لمكذا من الاجل

Hurd Hatfield

THE ACTOR Hurd Hatfield will always be associated with the film role that made him a star, that of the aesthetic young man who remains youthful through the years while a portrait of himself in the attic displays the aberrations of his life, in MGM's film version of Oscar Wilde's novel The Picture of Dorian Gray.

He would later say, however, that the role was a curse as well as a blessing, for within five years he was appearing in B movies, and throughout the rest of his life he would be associated with that single role, despite a long and varied career in film, television and particularly theatre. "I have been haunted by The Picture of Dorian Gray," he said. "New York, London, anywhere I'm making a personal appearance, people will talk about other things but they always get back to Dorian Gray." Coincidentally, until recently Hatfield's appearance remained remarkably youthful, and he became accustorned to being asked if he kept a painting of himself in his attic.

He was born William Rukard Hurd Hatfield in New York City in 1918. He won a scholarship to study acting at Michael Chekhov's Dartington Hall company in Devon, England, and made his professional début in the spring of 1939 playing the Baron in scenes from The Lower Depths at the company's theatre. Returning to the United States with Chekhov's company, he toured as Sir Andrew Aguecheek in Twelfth Night, Caleb Plummer in Cricket on the Hearth, and Gloucester in King Lear, before making his Broadway debut

Francisco Comment Comm

as Kirilov in The Possessed (1939). This adaptation of several Dostoevsky works into one sombre 15-scene play ran for only 14 performances, with both the acting and Chekhov's direction deemed excessively stylised. While the company was playing on the West Coast. Hatfield was signed by MGM and cast as Lao San in the studio's 1944 adaptation of Pearl Buck's epic novel Dragon Seed, about the effect of Japanese invasion on a family of Chinese farmers. "That was

some experience," said Hatfield later. "A nightmare! Walter Huston was my father, Katharine Hepburn my sister, Aline MacMahon from New York my mother, Turkish Turhan Bey my brother, Russian Akim Tamiroff my uncle - it was a very odd Chinese family!"

Hatfield then auditioned for the role of vain young sensualist who trades his soul for eternal youth in The Picture of Dorian Gray (1945). "Oscar Wilde's original Dorian is blond and blue-eyed," he said later, "and here I was, this gloomy-looking creature. I almost didn't go to the audition, and when I did, all these blond Adonises were to the right and left of me. I looked like one of their agents!"

The director Albert Lewin had just written and directed a successful transcription of Somerset Maugham's The Moon and Sixpence, and he was given a large budget to make an opulent and literate version of Wilde's novel, though critics objected to the many liberties that were taken with the story. The strict censorship of the time worked to some extent in the film's favour, making the suggestions of corrup-

formance was given a mixed reception (one critic described his lack of facial animation to that of an actress playing Trilby while under the hypnotic spell of Svengali). Variety reported, "He plays it with little feeling, as apparently intended, and does it well . . . he's singularly Narcissistic all the way." The majority felt that the actor's immobile features and flat tones suggested the mixture of beauty and depravity called for, but although the film was a great success it falled to ignite Hatfield's film career. "The film didn't make me popular in Hollywood," he commented later. "It was too odd, too avant-garde, too ahead of its time. The decadence, the hints of bisexuality and so on, made me a leper!

Hatfield's enigmatic, passive per-

mour, and people wouldn't even have lunch with me." His next film was an independent production, the off-beat Diary of a Chambermaid (1946), adapted by Burgess Meredith from Octave Mirbeau's 1900 novel Le Journal d'une femme de chambre and directed by Jean Renoir, who was a great ad-

Nobody knew I had a sense of hu-

Dorian Gray didn't make me popular in Hollywood. It was too odd, too avant-garde, too ahead of its time'

tion and decadence all the more mirer of Paulette Goddard, Meredtelling for being oblique.

Harry Stradling's photography, which blazed into colour from blackand-white when it showed the ageing, increasingly dissolute portrait (by Ivan Albright), won an Academy Award. George Sanders was ideally cast as the cynical misogynist Lord Henry Wotton and Angela Lansbury won an Oscar nomination for her portrayal of Sybil Vane, the music-half singer whose plaintive rendition of "Little Yellow Bird" wins Gray's heart before he is persuaded by Wotton to jilt her cruelly.

ith's wife and the star of the film. In this strongly cast production, Hatfield held his own as the consumptive son of a wealthy landowner who finds strength and redemption through the love of a chambermaid, but the film, now regarded as a minor classic, was only a succes d'estime at the time of its release, and Hatfield returned to MGM to play a subsidiary role as one of the scientists working on the atom bomb in the studio's semi-documentary of the weapon's development, The Beginning or the End (1947).

He had a better role in Michael Curtiz's enjoyable thriller The Unsuspected (1947), as an artist driven to alcohol by his wife's infidelities. In Walter Wanger's costly but ponderous Joan of Arc (1948), Hatfield played Father Pasquerel, chaplain to Joan (Ingrid Bergman), but, when this was followed by roles as the villain in two B movies. The Checkered Coat (1950, as a psychotic killer called Creepy) and Chinatown at Midnight (1950), he decided to return to the stage.

In 1952 he appeared on Broadway as Dominic in Christopher Fry's Venus Observed, directed by Laurence Olivier, and the following year played Lord Byron and Don Quixote in Tennessee Williams's Comino Real, directed by Elia Kazan. He was Prince Paul in the Broadway production of Anastasia (1954), played the title role in Julius Caesar in the inaugural season of the American Shakespeare Festival at Connecticut, Stratford (1955) and appeared as Don John in John Gielgud's legendary production of Much Ado About Nothing (1959).

He occasionally returned to Hollywood, notably for two sexually ambivalent roles: the epicene follower of Billy the Kid (Paul Newman) in Arthur Penn's film of Gore Vidal's The Left-Handed Gun (1958) and a homosexual antique dealer considered a suspect in The Boston Strangler (1968) - the scene in which he is questioned by a liberal police officer (Henry Fonda) was one of the most potent in the film. He was in two of 1965's epics, King of Kings and El Cid, and in 1986 returned to the screen to play the ailing grandfather of Jessica Lange, Sissy Spacek and Diane Keaton in Crimes of the Heart.

His prolific television work included The Rivals and The Importance of Being Ernest (both 1950). the title roles in The Count of Monte Cristo (1958) and Don Juan in Hell (1960), episodes of Suspense, Alfred Hitchcock Presents and Murder She Wrote, and in 1963 an Emmynominated performance as Rothschild in The Invincible Mr Disraeli.



Hatfield in the title role of The Picture of Dorian Gray, 1945

In recent years he toured Germany: Northern Ireland, Latvia and Russia in The Son of Whistler's Mother, a one-man play about James McNeill Whistler, and in July 1997 he made a personal appearance at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York in connection with an exhibition of paintings by Albright (including Dorian Gray).

حكدًا من الاجل

A bachelor, Hurd Hatfield had lived for many years on an estate in Ireland the also owned a house on Long Island), commuting for acting assignments. He recently stated that he had accepted his permanent

even though the film had for him been "a terrible ordeal in selfcontrol, everything being so cerebral". He added, "But not many actors are fortunate enough to have made a classic. One friend told me it's a good thing I didn't make Dracula and have my entire professional life dominated by that!"

association with the role of Gray.

TOM VALLANCE

William Rukard Hurd Hatfield. actor: born New York 7 December 1918: died Monkstown, Co Cork 25 December 1998.

Emilio Fermín Mignone

EMILIO FERMIN MICNONE was at once a tower of strength and very tragile. Slightly hunched, he had a quiet sense of humour in the contained fashion of lives tinged with tragedy. He was affable, knowledgeable and consistent in his speech in the style of most veteran lawyers.

Argentina's constitutional present and its dictatorial past held for him a need to understand a political transition that he had accepted. But nobody understood how he had come to terms with it, except through his strong religious belief. He lived and campaigned with his personal tragedy ever present: his daughter was abducted and became one of Argentina's thousands of "disappeared" on 24 May 1976. She was a child psychologist working in a shanty town in the Flores area west of Buenos Aires. Her work was seen as subversive by the military dictator-

ship that seized power that March. The obituaries in Argentina recall him as an institutional man - a civil servant in human rights. He founded the Centre for Legal and Social Studies ("Cels") in 1978, and became one of Argentina's most notable and persistent human rights campaigners. He had begun his protest against the dictatorship shortly after its installation, distributing his criticism to Buenos Aires newsrooms. His daughter had helped him deliver his circulars.

There has to be some significance that he died at the British Hospital in Buenos Aires. As a member of the executive of the Article 19 human rights organisation in the late 1980s he enjoyed his brief visits to London and described it as the one city in the world where he felt at peace.

Mignone began his working life as a lawyer and a teacher. Between 1948 and 1952 he edited his home town newspaper, La Voz de Luján – ironically, during the government of Peron, who gagged all the Argentine press from the time he took office in 1946. Mignone, however, held a sympathy for Peronism's populist social welfare.

He lived in Washington DC for a time in the mid-1960s, advising on education at the Organisation of American States. In 1968, he became under-secretary for education during the regime of General Juan Carlos Ongania, a small-time despot who is largely responsible for precipitating Argentina into near civil war in the 1970s, but in whom Mignone saw a staunch Roman Catholic and a valid successor to Peronism.

In June 1973, the elected Peronist when he took charge of Nottingham | the national university of Lujan, a job he held until the coup. During the dicfoot of the First Division - though he | tatorship he was a member of the executive of the Permanent Assembly for Human Rights (APDH) and was constantly followed and threatened by military security agents. In 1986 he published his essay "Church and Dictatorship", criticising the Church for supporting the military regime.

In July 1985, during the trials of the military junta leaders, he told the former dictators: "You took government with a plan to kidnap, torture and murder." The remark shattered the silence in the courtroom, and shook the lingering sense of fear in Buenos Aires. ANDREW GRAHAM-YOOLL

Emilio Fermin Mignone, lawyer and human rights campaigner: born Lujan, Argentina 22 July 1922; married (five daughters): died Buenos Aires 21 December 1998.

Matt Gillies

MATT GILLIES was as seminally important to Leicester City during the 1960s as were his famous fellow Scots Matt Busby and Bill Shankly to Manchester United and Liverpool

Certainly both held Gillies in immense esteem and believed he had deserved better than his single 1964 League Cup triumph with the unfashionable Foxes, so inspired was his work. Indeed, Gillies transformed Leicester from a club which had yoyoed dizzily between the First and Second Divisions during the second ralf of the 1950s into one of the elite flight's more solid citizens. Apart from that one trophy suc-

cess, between 1961 and 1967 there were four top-eight League finishes, the first European foray in the club's history, FA Cup Final appearances in 1961 and 1963 and a second League Cup Final outing in 1965. This was a rapturously impressive record.

In personality, Gillies resembled the stately Busby more closely than the abrasively excitable Shankly. Gentlemanly, unassuming and a ly by his assessment of the rookie



A silver-tongued diplomat

silver-tongued diplomat, he rejoiced in the respect of most players, possessing the priceless knack - from Leicester's viewpoint - of deflecting wage demands with pure charm, footballers left his office with smiles but with little extra in their pockets.

He was a shrewd judge of raw talent, too, a gift illustrated most vivid-

Frank McLintock. After an incon- faith in the unproven Peter Shilton clusive trial, the club was about to prompted him to sell the world's best reject the scrawny, Gorbals-raised teenager, but Gillies saw something stayed and matured into one of Leicester's most influential performers, going on to star for Arsenal. Gillies was a canny operator in the

transfer market, his most vaunted transaction being the £7,000 acquisition of Gordon Banks, a youthful goalkeeper destined for greatness, from Chesterfield in 1959. There were other bargains, notably the Scottish play-maker Davie Gibson and the winger Mike Stringfellow, but he was not afraid to invest boldly, either, as he proved by paying Fulham a British record £150,000 fee for the marksman Allan Clarke in 1968.

Indeed, Gillies was never less than decisive. For instance, in 1961 he astounded the soccer world by axing his prolific centre-forward, Ken Leek, for the FA Cup Final meeting with mighty Spurs, opting instead to field the inexperienced Hugh McIlmoyle. Six years later his

goalkeeper, Banks, to Stoke City. Shilton went on to play more League for England than anyone in the history of the game. Finally, Gillies even left Leicester on a point of principle, resigning after the board had sacked his trusted coach, Bert Johnson, following a lean spell of results which

was to culminate in relegation.

Though Gillies spent his working life in football, in his teens he was bent on a career in medicine. His studies were interrupted by war and he became a navigator in RAF Bomber Command. Meanwhile he had emerged as a promising halfback and served Motherwell as an amateur before signing for Bolton Wanderers in 1942. After the conflict he broke into the Trotters' senior side at right half, then became a reliable centre-half and captain before losing out to younger men.

In January 1952 Gillies joined Leicester for £9,500 and was the reg-remained splendidly competitive ular stopper in the side that lifted the

Second Division Championship in season precipitated Johnson's dis-1954. His playing days drew to a close during the subsequent disappointing First Division campaign and in 1956. iotherapy, he turned to coaching.

Then, when David Halliday vacated the boss's chair in November 1958, Gillies became caretaker manager, accepting the job permanently two months later. Working closely with Bert Johnson, he turned around the fortunes of the struggling First Division outfit, his success based on a formidably sound defence. The team reached its peak in

1962/63 when, for a time, there was a possibility of the hallowed League and FA Cup double, and Leicester were favourites to win the Wembley meeting with Manchester United. The following season brought compensation with a two-legged League Cup Final victory over Stoke, and City came close to retaining the trophy in 1964/65, being beaten by Chelsea in the final after that. Gillies' Foxes until 1968/69, when a poor start to the

Take a time-trip outside the Dome

missal and the manager's departure. Towards the end of his Filbert Street tenure Gillies had become

Forest, then struggling near the remained at the City Ground for nearly four years, it proved an unhappy reign. The club seemed intent on selling its best players, the replacements proved inadequate and they were relegated in 1971/72. In October 1972, with Forest doing poorly in the Second Division, Gillies resigned. It was a sadly anti-climactic ending to an accomplished career.

Matthew Muirhead Gillies, footballer and manager: born Loganlea. West Lothian 12 August 1921: played for Bolton Wanderers 1942-52. Leicester City 1952-56; managed Leicester City 1958-68, Nottingham Forest 1969-72; married (one son, one daughter); died Nottingham 24 December 1998.

IVAN PONTING

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, **MARRIAGES** & DEATHS

BIRTHS

CHIDWICK: On Monday 21
December 1988 at Maidstone, to
Sandra and Russell Chidwick, a
daughter, Gabrielle Thamisin, a
little sister for Joshua.

FOX McCLURE: Reuben River was born on Christmas Eve at University College Hospital, London, to Genevieve and

JONES: Martin David, a son for Simon and Karen and a first grandchild for both Ian and Christine Henderson and Tony and Sally Jones, was born on 12 December 1988 at Simpson Memorial Maternity Pavilion, Edinburgh.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; 1st Guard at Horse Guards, Ham; 1st Battafion The Duke of Wellington's Regment mounts the Queen's Guard at Buckfogham Palace, 11,30am, band provided by the Welsh Guards.

BIRTHDAYS

Mr Douglas Anthony, former Deputy Prime Minister in Australia, 69; Mr Edward Glanvill Benn, life president, Benn Bros, 93; Mr Phil Blakeway, rugby player, 48; Sir George Blunden, former Deputy Governor, Bank of England, 76; Mr Michael Bonallack, Secretary, Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews, 64; Sir George Christie, chairman, Glyndebourne Productions, 64; Mr Stephen Cleobury, Organist Cambridge University, 50; Air Marshal Sir Patrick Dunn, 86; Sir Anthony Hopkins, actor, 61; Miss Tess Jaray, artist, 61; Mr Ben Kingsley, actor, 55; Mr Brian McGratten, rugby player, 39; Mr Eric Mackay, former Editor of The Scotsman, 76; Miss Sarah Miles. actress, 55; Dr Valerie Pearl, former President, New Hall, Cambridge, 72; Mr Jean-Pierre Rives, rugby player, 46; Mr Nigel Rudd, chairman, Williams Holdings, 52; Sir John Sainty, former

MP, 44; The Right Rev Timothy Stevens, Bishop Suffragan of Dunwich. 52; Miss Donna Summer, singer, 50; Mr Hugh Tunnell, former ambassador to Bahrain, 63: Sir David Walker, chairman, Morgan Stanley Group, 59.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Charles Edward Stuart, the Young Pretender, 1720; Henri-Emile Benoit Matisse, painter, 1869; Jule Styne (Julius Kerwin Stein). songwriter and composer. 1905. Deaths: John Wycliffe, reformer, 1384; Sir Malcolm Campbell, speedster, 1948; Canon Lewis John Collins, peace campaigner, 1982. On this day: the chimes of Big Ben were broadcast for the first time, 1923; the British army abandoned the use of the lance, 1927; the Home Guard was disbanded, 1945; the farthing ceased to be legal currency, 1960. Today is Hogmanay in Scotland and the Feast Day of St Columba of Sens, St John-Francis Regis, St Melania the Younger and St Silvester L pope.

BRACE YOURSELF for the Year of the Millennium - and for a twelvemonth **MEANINGS OF**

of intensifying babble about the Dome! "Imagine What We Can Do Tomorrow" was the slogan launched in the Christmas Eve advert for the £800m project, paid for by the National Lottery. It was a genuflection to the Dome's theme of Time, as were the Easter Island statues which figured prominently in its summary of world history since the last millennium.

It was an unfortunate choice; the Easter Island statues witness to some centuries of genocidal warfare and ecological destruction even before they were "discovered". More than that the rest of the "millennial landmarks", chosen by focus groups, are equally arbitrary or banal.

The Dome has attracted a certain bitchiness; especially sharp is the epithet, adapted from Susan Sontag, "Bad enough to be funny, but not bad enough to be fun". Ouch! But the churches have perhaps been unwise in joining in the grumbling. For it uncannily recalls an earlier Dome Project, in which the Jubilee of 1500 was celebrated with similarly extravagant display. That too was paid for by the gullible, seeking time off from purgatory for cash. Indulgences - an outcome tax rather than an income tax did for Christendom what the Poll Tax did for Margaret Thatcher. For the 16th-century dome was the new St Peter's in Rome.

Not that Protestants can afford to be smug about that. The Archbishop of York moved on to dangerous ground with his complaint that the Dome is out

CHRISTMAS

JOHN KENNEDY

To reflect more truly on the past millennium, turn your back on Mr Mandelson's extravaganza and study the panorama along the Thames

of keeping with Christian humility, baby Jesus, the manger etc. Well, I love York Minster, but it bears few manger-like features, and not even Peter Mandelson would have aspired to the splendours of the archbishop's official residence.

The problem is this, both Churches and Domers suffer the same propensity to deny the reality of power in history. So let's take an alternative time-trip, starting from the hill in Greenwich above the Dome. Down the hill stands the Queen's House, built by Inigo Jones for James I, the creator of Protestant Britain and perhaps the most theological British monarch. The English Bible rightly bears his name. He memorably engaged in learned dialogue with the Jesuit Henry Garnet, who had been tortured half to death for his alleged role in the Gunpowder Plot. It's rugged stuff, theology, when power is involved.

Looming beside it is the double-

Naval Hospital. The need for it is plain from the nearby monument to General Wolfe, Victor of Quebec; he, Clive and others annexed a quarter of the globe in the mid-18th century, but only from the French, so no harm done. But it was all done under cover of a rather noisy Protestantism. Yes, Ian Paisley is an historical relic, but he is a genuine one these things once mattered.

But the conflicts of power had moved

domed perfection of Wren's Royal

away from religion into the arena of economics. Beyond the river is the Isle of Dogs. Once its docks were central to the global wealth of the British Empire. That may have vanished but it is still a symbol of the secular nature of power in contemporary Britain. For over the new Docklands is the great tower of Canary Wharf. Here is the greatest concentration of the media in Britain, from the mighty Telegraph to the smaller but perfectly formed Independent. Here also are merchant banks and advertising agencies through which pass financial flows which make millions of people richer, enjoy privilege, that is witness enough and other millions poorer. This, rather than the Dome, is the symbol of our future world. For here, without noise or movement, churns away all that mêlée the turbulent panorama below: of ambition and principle, ruthlessness and sympathy, greed and conviction that makes humanity what it is - and which the Dome so smugly masks.

It is all much less religious than in previous eras - but not necessarily less moral. In the days when the Churches had real power, they responded to current exigencies no less ruthlessly

than some tenants of Canary Wharf do now. This needs to be remembered now that the Churches are spectators trying to be referees.

It is in response to that changed reality that the Churches have produced a Millennium Resolution (see below, which has been widely mocked - for it fails to mention either God or that Jesus Christ who is supposedly the object of Millennial attention. But it is realistic to do so. The churches have planned numerous celebrations for the faithful of the 2,000th anniversary of the birth of Christ. But the Resolution appeals to a universal audience, and gets it about right. It has sharp convictions about shared values, and the right kind of humility in standing like an exclamation mark acknowledging that these are not the exclusive property of the Church. The stark fact is this. The coming

Millennium will see a continuing decline in the power of Church-as-Referee, But society will negotiate its own deals with power, and will likely do so no worse than did Christendom, And, if Christians will hold influence rather than to their faith. So take your time-trip in Greenwich Park and read the churches' desire for the Millennium against

Let there be Respect for the earth Peace for its people Love in our lives Delight in the good Foreiveness for past wrongs And from now on a new start.

John Kennedy is political affairs secretary of the Methodist Church

Post Gazette announcements to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, telephone Post Gazette sindent to 0171-293 2010. Please give a daytime telephone number. 0171-293 2012 or fax to 0171-293 2010.

Clerk of the Parliaments, 64;

Mr Alexander Salmond





Can we have sex and stay friends?

This week's dilemma: Max, single and 30, has the occasional girlfriend and once wanted to get married but it didn't work out. He now spends lots of time with a single woman friend, who's suggested they have sex - just sex, nothing more. He quite fancies her, but doesn't love her and worries it might destroy the friendship

ome men try to persuade women into bed by telling them they love them, and that sex will add a new dimension to their relationship. Some women persuade men into bed by saying that sex is just nothing, and it a bit screwy." will simply be a pleasurable but meaningless experience.

Both of them are lying through their teeth. The men usually want a pleasurable but meaningless experience, and the women want a deeper relationship.

"But don't women these days see sex in a much more take-it-or-leave it way

than they used to?" I asked my son, having been fed this fuck-'em-and-chuck-'em line by a diet of movies, women's maga-

zines and telly sitcoms. "Not really," he replied. "Of course there is the odd one, but they're usually

Unless this woman is one of the screwy ones, then, Max will find that including sex in the relationship will change it drastically. How will he be able to take the occasional woman out if he's sleeping with his female friend who will suddenly have changed - literally overnight - into his girlfriend? He'll have gone to bed with a

VIRGINIA'S ADVICE

platonic pal, and woken to find her grinning maniacally and saying, though probably not verbally: "Heh, heh, heh, fooled you. Now, when can we move in together, have babies and get married?" - in much the same way as many Don Juans leap out of bed in the morning, laughing their heads off, saying: "Heh, heh, heh, fooled you, don't really love you after all, see you around."

Of course having sex with this woman will change the relationship. Of course it

will destroy the friendship. Take an ounce of flour (Max), an ounce of butter (his woman friend), mix together and add boiling milk (sex) and you get a white sauce (a completely new relationship). Just as it is impossible to reverse the process of a white sauce and reduce it to its original ingredients, it is equally unlikely that Max could re-create the friendship he and his friend have now.

Put another way, you can add salt to a dish but you can't take it out. A lover can going to mean he has to reject her, unless

lover is hard to turn into a friend until lots of time has passed.

Now sex may destroy the platonic friendship, but it might lead to something deeper and more permanent. Max may find he's in for a complete surprise when he gets into bed with his friend. Unfortunately, you can never tell until you've tried. She might be so sexy, sensual and loving when she tears her clothes off,

that he becomes completely hooked. But it might be a disaster. If so, wriggling out of sleeping with her again is

be a friend as well as a lover, but an extime charade every time they meet.

Whether he has sex with her or not depends partly on whether he's a gambler. But, at this stage, I think he should probably say no.

There are, after all, more attractive ways to seduce people than to say: "Let's have sex - it won't mean anything." which, even to a man, is surely a fairly bleak and mechanical prospect. Men don't like being used any more than women do. And love usually plays a greater part in their enjoyment of sex than some men would like to admit.

It certainly worked for us I don't usually write to newspapers, but after reading about Max's dilemma it struck such a chord that I felt I had to. I too was in such a predicament (a rather pleasant predicament) in that I was 28, a single man, had been engaged and had a close female friend who wanted more than just a friendship. It was further complicated by her having a six-month-old daughter, Hannah, by another man long consigned to history.

I dithered for ages as I too didn't feel that I loved her. However, after going away for a few weeks, I missed her greatly and we ended up in bed upon my return. It was certainly awkward afterwards but, because our friendship was so strong, we got over this. I had been reluctant to take this step because I feared getting involved in a relationship that I didn't want. However, our relationship had changed - for the better. Once the "Shall we, shouldn't we?" question had been answered, we relaxed and realised it could work. Love doesn't necessarily come like a flash of lightning, but can grow from friendship

We are about to celebrate our second Christmas together and we look on Hannah as our daughter. Therefore, although it may not necessarily work for Max, if he doesn't try it, he'll never know - which is the worst scenario of all. If the friendship ROB VAN DER EYKEN Truro, Cornwall

(perhaps it is better for that).

Life isn't a dress rehearsal! I'm terribly impressed that you are now getting messages from beyond the grave, because I'm quite certain that

Max has died and gone to Heaven! There are millions of blokes the world over who, confronted with the possibility of a lavish sex life with no strings attached, would not be dithering and writing to newspapers about it. They'd be into the bath, down to the florists (via the chemist) and presenting themselves on the appropriate doorstep with a broad grin.

It would seem that Max ought to revise his attitudes towards women. They are not that terrifying. In most relationships, a good

friendship is essential; if it's already

there then he should capitalise on it.

As the philosopher said, life is not a

Seventeen years ago, I took in a

like a dog than a cat, and would

follow me from room to room each

me for short walks in the country.

the last year, and I kept thinking to

have him put to sleep. However, the

muself that it would be kinder to

abandoned on a motorway. Snoopy

was a cat in a million. He was more

day. He would even come along with

Sadly, he had become very ill over

kitten that had been cruelly

Dear Virginia,

Don't be used just as a stud

without finding that she then falls in love and wants more. Secondly - be careful that she hasn't just realised she wants a baby before it's too late, it, with or without your agreement. INGE CUBITT

Brentford, Middlesex

READERS' SUGGESTIONS

dress rehearsal. This is it. NICHOLAS DIXEY via e-mail

This sounds fine in theory, but warning bells are ringing in my head. Firstly, in my personal experience, I have never known a woman enter into a relationship for reasons of friendship, and sees you as just the man to father

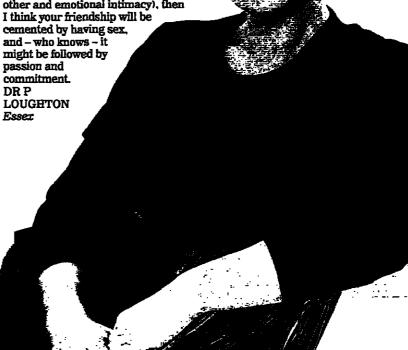
Love may follow friendly sex I feel you are looking for a committed relationship with someone you love. I assume by love you mean romantic love. What a marvellous state to be in. and wouldn't it be fantastic if this ecstatic state went on forever. It

One of the pitfalls for many romantic lovers is that they see their lover through rose-coloured spectacles. In an ecstatic state one 'projects" qualities onto one's partner that they do not possess. With time the magic wears off

Three important components of love are intellectual commitment, intimacy, both sexual and emotional, and sexual

passion. It sounds as if you already have the emotional intimacy and it's this that is so important in any long-term relationship. The importance of friendship first and love second is that one is much more likely to have got to know the true - rather than illusory - qualities of a partner before "falling in love". As long as your relationship is one

of true friendship (respect for each other and emotional intimacy), then I think your friendship will be cemented by having sex. and - who knows - it might be followed by passion and commitment



NEXT WEEK'S DILEMMA

finally I found him stretched out in the hall, having been sick and unable to move or lift his head. He was just skin and bones.

I took him back to the veterinary surgery, but this time it was a different vet on duty, and he put him to sleep straight away. Since then I have not been able to sleep for guilt. Should I have had it done earlier? Should I have waited longer till the first vet came back? Should I have just let him die in my own home, Snoopy became iller and iller, and keep remembering the terrible look

in his eyes as I had it done. I cry all the time. I feel so wicked, having done this to my best friend. Yours sincerely, Penny

Anyone who has advice quoted will be sent a bouquet from interflora Please send letters and dilemmas to Virginia Ironside, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E145DL. Fax 0171-293 2182; or e-mail

dilemmas@independent.co.uk address for the bouquet

Come the resolutions

Forget about making your own. It's much more fun telling other people what to do. By John Walsh

noying habits was to inform me, each 31 December, what my New Year resolutions should be. In vain would I point out that a resolution is, by its nature, a personal thing - an internal commitment to become a better human being in the future, not a prescription handed down from on high. She would explain that people never knew best about what needed improving in their lives. It takes someone else – some kind friend or relation perhaps - to point out that, if they resolved to eat less garlic or to cease using the word "bizarre" all the time, their life would be better and so would the lives of those around them. Your own commitment to stop drinking 120proof St Lucian rum every morning is all well and good. but there may be something far more radical in your life that you should adopt or relinquish without delay, and you need an outsider's eye to tell you what it is. So here are some crucial Wife Initiative.

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and the Sleeping With Your

most profit from them:



Take my advice: President Clinton, Delia Smith and David Beckham

The Queen must try to be more accessible and democratic than in 1998. She must go President Clinton must reon the National Lottery Draw solve to start having sex. The as a guest button-presser (sayenormous fuss caused by his ing "Good luck everyone!" and not having sex with various jerking both thumbs aloft), she must join a Saga holiday to Lanthan it's worth. He must try zarote, acquire a taste for shish kebabs on Friday nights and Taking Your Clothes Off Option sign up Max Clifford to sell the rights to her memoirs, Liz R

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R.R.H. Prime Mris Al-Senusa, Darachor.

Peter Mandelson must determine to go house-hunting somewhere that is more ap-propriate to his income bracket than Notting Hill I'm told Catford and Lewisham have some quite nice mezzanine flats, which are reasonably handy for Greenwich.

David Beckham and Victoria Adams must resolve to cut off each other's excessively long and irritating

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fringes so that each can at last Davies must stay in more. see what the other looks like. George Michael must bring out a theme CD of novelty songs, including "Gee Officer Krupke", "The Laughing Policeman" and "Willie and the

Hand Jive". Prince Charles will resolve to get to Level 3 of the Play Station game Oddworld, with or without the help of his sons.

Tony Blair should resolve to become more interested in where his cabinet ministers get the cash to pay for their houses, their yachts, their Ozwald Boateng suits, their private jets, private armies and offshore companies.

Rupert Murdoch's resolution should be (and probably is) to become a Chinese citizen. With any luck, in doing so he will unexpectedly find himself involved in the North Beijing People's Cultural Collective, putting on an amateur production of Little Fong and the Paddy Field Drainage Operative for peasant audiences.

Nicole Kidman must resolve to do lots more theatre in 🛮 es again. London, in increasingly small and experimental venues, culminating in a one-woman production of Nell Dunn's Steaming in the shed at the end

of my garden. Stephen Byers, the Secretary of State at the Department of Trade and Industry, will resolve that this year, he will definitely crack the nine times Just a thought.

to go out with some fat brunettes in the future, given the mess his life has become at noise in his throat. the hands of a dozen identical slender blondes.

Emma Noble must undertake to get herself some underwear this year.

Lord Irvine of Lairg must try to get out more - Ron

Paul Gascoigne must resolve to supplement his income by becoming Food and Drink Critic of The Big Issue. Monica Lewinsky must also explore new career possibilities, now the internship is a goner and the memoirs will fail

to deliver anything new. She must resolve to try her luck in advertisements. A chewinggum commercial would be a good start. Delia Smith must take up

smoking. Her new series, Delia's Spring Surprise, should feature the great cook with a Marlboro Light dangling from the corner of her mouth as she demonstrates how to make boeuf en daube. The resulting nationwide rush to off-licences and tobacconists will be an important counter to the Government's anti-fags

Saddam Hussein must publicly resolve to be nicer to people in future, especially UN inspectors, or we will carpet-bomb his subjects' hous-Richard Branson must re-

solve to try for some other world record besides that of hot-air ballooning. The record for the longest period spent submerged in a bathyscape under the Pacific Ocean - invisible, and wholly out of contact with the terrestrial world - stands at 200 days, I believe.

Geoffrey Boycott must re-Will Carling must resolve solve to stop pronouncing go out with some fat "cricket" as "k'ikit", and making that extraordinary clicking

Robbie Williams must make a firm undertaking never ever again to wear the seethrough, frock-and-directoireknickers outfit he wore on Top of the Pops last year while singing "Millennium".

POETIC LICENCE

LUGGAGE LOST IN TIME BY MARTIN NEWELL ILLUSTRATION BY ANDREW BIRCH

Although aircraft are unlikely to plummet from the skies, the Millennium Bug may well lose our airline baggage in a time warp. In recent tests, BAA found that when the clock was set to 1.1.00, its baggage-handling system sent luggage down the 'mis-sort' chute



The toothpaste and your towel Your calculator, laptop and your socks Surrendered at the airport Are lost somewhere in time Millennial gremlins sabotaged the clocks And through the whirling vortex Suitcases disappear As down the time continuum they spin The baggage handlers, helpless Apologise at length And swear to God they put the objects in The highwaymen of Hounslow Found luggage on the heath Two hundred years before the airport came The credit cards were useless Pyjamas thrown away But duty-free Jack Daniels worked the same The coachmen and postillions Along the Western Road Once puzzled by the objects on the ground Unpacked the foreign Walkmans Then drove to Drum 'n' Bass In tracksuits and the baseball caps they found A horrified historian Presents to a museum Possessions pipelayers found beneath a floor The Restoration trainers Some Georgian shaving foam Deodorant from the English Civil War And down the sleeping centuries The peace is then disturbed

As missing mobile phones begin to ring

But history's baggage handlers

Will answer much the same:

"Prithee sir - I have not glimpsed the thing."

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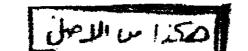
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Labour's end of term report

Has the Government started to honour its election pledge to prioritise education? Experts give their mark out of 10

BARONESS PERRY, Conservative years neglect of school buildings. Al-Bank University and HMI (supervisor of teaching and administration in schools). Now president of Lucy Cavendish College Cambridge. Mark: 6 out of 10. "In higher education it's been a dis-

aster. I can't tell you how angry I am with the Government. Removing student maintenance grants and introducing a tuition fee has hit the most deprived people in society. The only people who got grants were the poorer students. For mature students like mine it's an unclimbable mountain. They've got to find an extra £6.000 a year. Very little of the fee money is coming in to improve universities. Overall, universities' money has gone down by 1 per cent. But I'm delighted to see more money going into further education. On schools, I welcome the proposals for better induction for new teachers. But performance-related pay is not appropriate for the teaching profession. I would like to see a much better pay scale for all teachers, but professional ways of weedg out the poor performers."

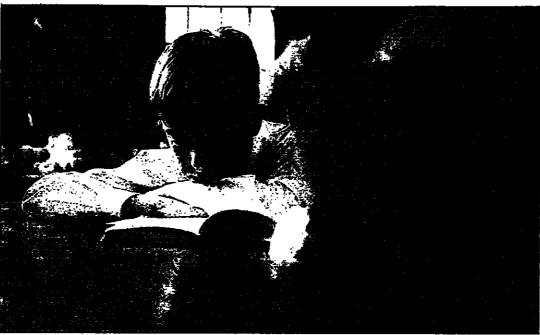
TED WRAGG, professor of education. University of Exeter.

Mark: 9 out of 10. "It's had a very good year. It put £2,000 into each school for books, which was greatly needed, especially when you consider that a quarter of primary schools were spending £5 or less per pupil per year on all

peer, former director of South though there's argument about how much money will really be available, it's clearly a far bigger sum for buildings than ever before. I think it's the first time a government has done that. Reducing class sizes for younger age groups is a step in the right direction. The Green Paper on the teaching profession has a lot of good things in it. There are problems with performance-related pay. What stops the Government getting 10 out of 10 is the continuing emphasis from Downing Street on being tough, tough, tough on teachers. It is demeaning to the profession. The other negative thing was the reappointment of Chris Woodhead, Chief Inspector of Schools, on a huge salary increase."

> BETHAN MARSHALL, lecturer in education at King's College London. Mark: 7-and-a-half out of 10. "The Government is still far too keen to tell teachers what to do. It has put considerably more money into schools than the Conservatives - and that's a good thing. And the Green Paper will produce better salaries for the vast majority of teachers.

> But the Government is still too prescriptive. I'm not sure it has yet got right the balance between supporting teachers and putting pressure on them. Chris Woodhead is still criticising teachers all the time. There is a crisis in recruitment and that has to do with status. And status is more than just money. You won't



Every school in the country received an extra £2,000 for books this year

ALAN RYAN, warden of New Col- much too much emphasis on puni-

lege Oxford. Mark: 10 out of 10 for tive measures against hopeless uni-

energy: 4 out of 10 for under- versities. And look at the way it's

standing the subject matter.

"It's very good at knowing that ed-

write by the age of 14. But it's still

too attached to old-fashioned egal-

itarian ideas and still too inclined to

try to get its way by bullying people.

There's too much naming and sham-

setting about further education colleges. It's all about control, punishucation matters and knowing it's ment, inspection, telling people how scandalous if people can't read or to do things." SHEILA LAWLOR, director of Politeia. Mark: 4 out of 10.

"The plus side: the Government has kept Chris Woodhead and albooks. The 25bn on school buildings attract bright graduates if you're ing, it's too attached to the bullying lowed him to continue to work for good academic universities continuate overly restrictive of the profession." lowed him to continue to work for good academic universities are also doing the function of many colleges of further eduction of many colleges of further eduction.

professional interest groups. It is going to allow higher pay for better teaching. The minus side is greater. There is even more central direction of schools and teachers, and less respect for the professionalism of the teacher and the autonomy of the regime. Plans to abolish grant-main-tained schools despite their proven success suggest an ideological bias against autonomy. The assault on the

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Blackstone's vindictive treatment of Oxford and Cambridge."

NIGEL DE GRUCHY, general secretary of the National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers. Mark: 7 out of 10.

"The White Paper on fairness at work and the Green Paper on teachers have enormous potential but we don't know what's going to be delivered. If they flop and we don't get a successful outcome, then the marks would sink below five. We're not in favour of performance-related pay for teachers. Teachers should be rated for their skill, knowledge, and commitment as opposed to the outputs - exam and test results, which are influenced by the teacher but over which the teacher has nowhere near total control."

LAURIE TAYLOR, writer and broadcaster and former professor of sociology at York University. Mark: 7 out of 10.

"Tve been pleased by the emphasis on further education, because for years further education has been underfunded and undervalued. Yet it is doing exactly what the Government wants in bringing education and training to more people. I'm very worried about the failure to recogschool than under the previous nise that new universities are discriminated against in the university hierarchy. I dislike the way this Government treats the universities as a level playing field, when new

er education minister Baroness ucation, taking people in and providing access, working out ways of providing courses with less resources than other universities. No measure of value added has been developed to right the balance."

> MARTIN STEPHEN, High Master of Manchester Grammar School.

Mark: 8 out of 10. "Well-meaning, smart in appearance, very good when it comes to io:mal events, guaranteed to say the right thing. Shows signs of great promise, considerable flair and a real capacity for divergent thinking. Will probably be facing problems from some delinquents in the far corners of the classroom (grammar school backwoodsmen). Some interesting tests of disciplinary powers coming up (grammar schools again)."

DAVID HART, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers. Mark: 6 out of 10.

"The jury is out. The Government will get a lot of marks from peop!outside education for its drive to raise standards. But from the prefession there's the distinct feeling we've been on the receiving end of a lot of pressure. Attempts to reduce bureaucracy have not worked. The end of 1998 is a defining moment in the relationship between teachers and the Government. Before the next election we will see whether the Government can deliver money in school budgets, support for a pay structure that recruits, retains and motivates and less bureaucracy." INTERVIEWS BY LUCY HODGES

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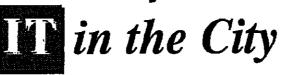
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Meaty, Beatty, big and flouncy

Annette Bening should have had enough successful lead roles by now to convince us that she's a star in her own right. But then somebody has to go and bring up Warren... By Jeff Dawson

joked that if he were reincarnated, he'd come back as Warren Beatty's fingertips. So if you're Annette Bening, Beatty's not-quite-so-famous other half, you run the risk of always being seen in the context of a notorious husband - the woman who tamed Tinseltown's greatest playboy. And that's a shame, because the "stunning actress and superb wiggler", as the venerable critic Pauline Kael once described her, is a serious performer

in her own right.
"When you're famous, you become the object of people's projections and it doesn't have a lot to do with you," she chuckles. "I mean, sometimes people think certain things that are, in fact, true; sometimes they're not. What am I gonna do? Go on every talk show and straighten everybody out about who I really am and what our relationship is really about and who tamed who?"

Not that it's a bad way to be perceived - "If I were maligned, maybe it would be harder, but people are nice" - it's just that Bening could not be further removed from a vamp if she tried. Her voice may have that Kathleen Turner-ish husk to it, but her elfin charm is far more that of Sydney Wade, the humble do-gooder she played in The American President – the one who had an illicit liaison with the Chief Executive before such things became fashionable.

Having kids means Bening doesn't work nearly as much as she might. Turning 40 this year has also put her at that "difficult" age when Hollywood consigns its leading ladies to the scrapheap. In which case, her new film, The Siege, in which she is surly and unscrubbed as a CIA agent (opposite Denzel Washington's FBI chie0, is a bold venture. "It's not a romantic part, it's not a mother, it's not a sister, it's not a daughter," she says. "It's a woman who is flawed and has secrets and who's made bad choices and with all these complications. That was unusual."

The Siege is certainly unusual. Coming from Ed Zwick, creator of thirtysomething and director of thoughtful military epics such as Glory and Courage Under Fire, this film also has a political slant - what happens when martial law is declared in the Big Apple after a terrorist bombing spree. Being Hollywood, the terrorists are Arab extremists, though the film attempts to raise questions about inherent prejudice against Arabs and Muslims (who are not necessarily one and the same). Like most Hollywood bigguns, Bening is a Democratic fundraiser, but she's refreshingly cynical, especially when it comes to US foreign policy. "It's just so touchy to talk about any of this in the USA. It's almost impermissible."

When trailers for the film appeared in the US, juxtaposing images of prayers at mosques with New York City buses blowing up, Arab groups were not best pleased. "That's a legitimate complaint," admits Bening.



'It's not a romantic part, it's not a mother, it's not a daughter. It's a woman who's flawed': Annette Bening in "The Seige'

"That's marketing. That's scary when you really think about it. Is that what sells a movie? The movie's not anti-Arab. I wouldn't have done it if it was. Listen, it's such a terribly, terribly serious subject. I don't mean to make light of it, but political correctness is deadly. The movie, I hope. makes people think more carefully about singling out an ethnic group."

By the time the film opened in the US. noble intentions undone with the sight of General Bruce Willis gleefully duffing up the terrorists. Arab groups began to picket cinemas. The same questions will inevitably be raised here.

"Do Islamic extremists exist in the world? Yes. Is it fair to put them in the movies? Yes. Is it good to generalise? No," insists Bening. "There is anti-Arab sentiment in this country. It's almost still politically acceptable in a way that it isn't in other groups. I hope the movie talks about that." It's all a long way from Kansas,

where Bening was born, or San Diego, where she grew up. After starting out as a dancer, she went to theatre school in San Francisco, evolving into a stage actress who supplemented theatre work with TV work, before ending up in the John Candy/Dan Aykroyd

'Do Islamic extremists exist in the world? Yes. Is it fair to put them in the movies? Yes.'

film The Great Outdoors. Next was Volmont, and though Miles Forman's film fared worse than Stephen Frears' rival Dangerous Liaisons, for which she had also auditioned. Frears kept her in mind for The Grifters, which garnered her a Best Supporting her fateful meeting with Beatty Casting around for a lesser-known

actress for the flashy gangster epic, Bugsy, Bening was courted by Beatty, in both senses of the word. Despite keeping their affair quiet, however, Bening soon announced that she was pregnant and the pair got married in time for the 1992 Oscars which didn't, as predicted, yield a clutch of awards for her husband. Still, they were feted as Hollywood royalty, Tinseltown mar-velling at how the ageing Lothario, who had dated most of his leading ladies, and a fair few more besides -Leslie Caron, Joan Collins, Natalie Wood, Julie Christie, Britt Ekland, Diane Keaton and Madonna - had

been brought to heel. Their next movie was the cloying Love Affair, which flopped badly, putting a significant dent in Beatty's viability as a leading man, although Bening bounced back with The American President. Pregnancies have Actress Oscar nomination. Then came cost Bening the Catwoman part in

Batman Forever, Demi Moore's role in Disclosure and a role in What Dreams May Come.

The couple's children - Isabel (11 months), Ben (three) and Kathlyn (five) - have not completely dominated proceedings, though. Next comes American Beauty with Kevin Spacey, a version of Hedda Gabler on stage, and Neil Jordan's Blue Vision, soon to be released.

"I'm lucky, because I get to do other things. I'm an actress. If I was not able to have something separate from my husband and my children, I would be one of those women with pistols to their heads, or I would be in an asylum, or I would be having a nervous breakdown, or I would be an alcoholic, or I would be depressed."

Fortunately, she has one very big fan. "Yeah, Warren's very proud of me." she says. "He thinks I'm the

'The Siege' is released on 8 January

THE 1998 ARTS QUIZ

Can you remember who caused a sensation when she disrobed on stage? All this and more in our trip through the past year. Compiled by Jonathan Sale



LAURIE LEWIS

1. Who challenges the scrotally challenged?

2. Which elephant byproduct is up the wall?

3. Which photographer had his decisive moment this year?

4. Where can you hear (a) Val Kilmer, Ralph Fiennes, Michelle Pfeiffer, Sandra Bullock and Steve Martin (b) Woody Allen?

5. Why wasn't the brilliant but obscure New York artist Nat Tate at the launch of his biography by William Boyd, with extracts read by David

Which unclothed actress went round and round?

Which band is unlikely to win the MTV Award for Being Polite to Duchesses?

What film made this year's Oscars a night to

9. Where won't you find Ian McKellen?

10. Which Church

charted? 11. Where was a plan for

a glass roof, to make waves on the river bank, finally shattered?

12. Where were all the stops pulled out on an organist and his wife?

13. What was the advice given by Derek Deane of the English National Ballet to dancers in Romeo and Juliet (above)?

14. Where did Wings of Desire fly to?

15. How did the Serpentine become a

16. Who is the Primary attraction?

17. How was Sigourney Weaver left in the cold?

18. What links the Battle of Waterloo and the battle of the sexes?

19. Identify towns included in current show titles a) in the West Country (b) the Mid-West (c) the East (d) Scandinavia (e) largely underwater.

20. Why were there bikes screeching up to the Barbican Art Gallery? - 41

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21. The old showbix maxim is: "Don't give up the day job." What regular work did Jackie Mason jack in?

22. In which Indian dish can Damien Hirst claim a one-third share?

23. How is the first editor of this paper connected with blue movies?

24. How did five become four but are about to become six?

25. What is The Phantom Menace (and why is its trailer so popular)?

26. Rex Harrison played the lead in the old film. Who plays the lead in the current musical?

27. What can't be placed in front of the Royal Court Theatre?

28. Which is the odd one out in the festive shows put on by the Royal Ballet at the Festival Hall: English National Ballet at the Coliseum; Birmingham Royal Ballet at the Birmingham Hippodrome; Scottish National Ballet at the Edinburgh Festival

29. Flow did Bitches come back from the grave?

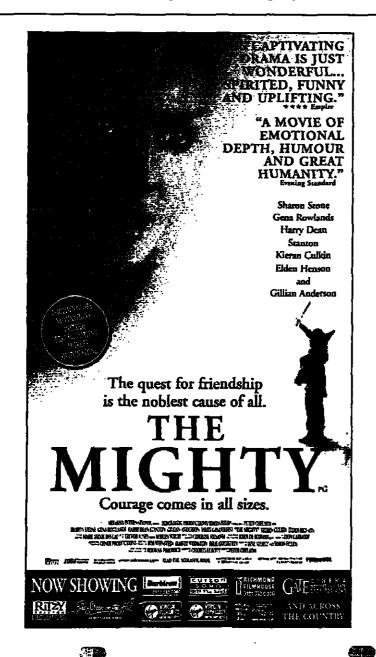
Theatre?

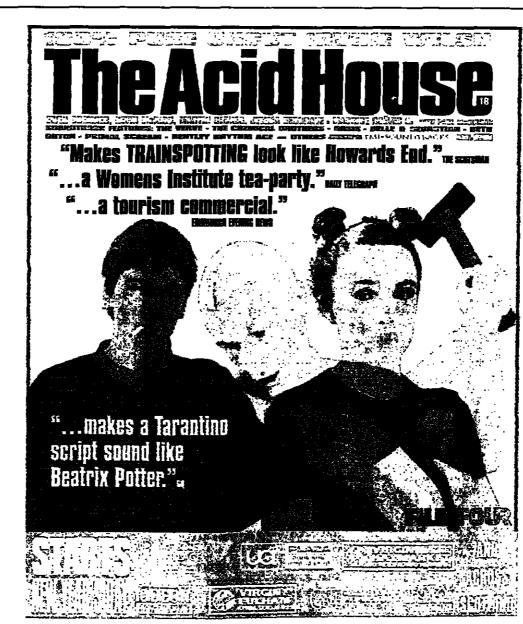
30.Which diabolical character brought home the Bacon?

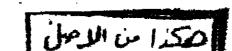
ANSWERS

life of painter Francis Bacon. Brew Sessions. 30, Love is the Devil is the film made of the some unbeard Miles Davis tracks on The Complete Bitches Jointie, 27. Jerwood: the Queen frowned on the order of words in the suggested renaming as Jerwood Royal Court, 28. They are all doing Cindersito apart from Birmingham, which is putting on The Nuterneter. 29. Columbia released which is putting on The Nuterneter. 29. Columbia released which is putting on The Nuterneter. Cup anthem, 28. Andreas Whittam Smith is now President of Cup anthem, 28. Andreas Whittam Smith is now President of the anthem 28. Ceri left, but two of the Spice Girls are on route to the maternity wards. St. It is the forthcoming Poisode! of the Stor Wars prequel; only the trailer can be seen at present. 36. Faul Schoffeld stars in Dratailer can be seen at present. 36. Faul Schoffeld stars in Dratailer. Barbican's American season 21. The US comedian is a former rabbi 22. Vindaloo: Hirst contributed to the England World Chicago (c) Miss Sargon (d) Copenhagen (e) Merchant of Venice, 20. The Art of the Harley and Shaker was part of the Barley and Shaker was part of the Rankey and Shaker was part of the Rankey and Shaker was part of the Marchant of The 112 comedian is a formy the Serpentine Gallery. Is, John Travolts in Primary Colors. 17. In Ang Lee's The Ice Storm. 18. Wonthy Foir, the TV series adapted by Andrew Davics. 19. (a) Printes of Personee (b). Chiram (c) Marchani of Chiram (d) Marchani of mance. Let City of Angels is a remake of Wings of Desire. 15. Spiders make up the theme of Louise Bourgeois's exhibition at the Comment of th ster Abbey 12 He advised them to have sex before the perfor-Martin Meary and wife Penny were dismissed from Westminnally ebbed away. 12. Organist and master of the Choristers. London's South Bank Centre with a wavy covering of glass financials. house, Leeds. 10, Child prodigy soprano Charlotte Church; her bestrelling album is Voice of on Angel. 11. A plan to shield London's South Poor Contro with a wave covering of glass fiwhose theatres he is abandoning for the West Yorkshire Play-house 1 and Horde, 7. Massaye Attack, who swore at Pergie during the Mry Amards ceremony. 8. The foreinner of multi-Oscar-winning Titonic was 1958's A Night to Remember. 9. London, whose thestres he is shandoning for the West Yorkshire Play. Was invented as a spool on the art world. 6. Nicole Klaman revealed all in The Blue Room, David Hare's adaptation of Lo Ronde. 7. Massive Attack are convent the forms the *High!, Volcing Moses etc (b) Ants. 5. He did not exist. Nat Tate

was inventor as a second of the second of the property of the second of the existice Moment. 4. In the soundiracies of (a) The Prince of unit women because the fact of the box over that Tal off as dailed in bedeiling sew effects to assert of the services to a service of the services prize-winner Chris Offii 3, Henri Cartier-Bresson, 90 this year. the Eurocha. 2. Elephant dung is used in the work of Turner prize winner. Process 90 this year Assam McCiregor in Little Motson and bir Struggle Against the Surant to whomat it have it have a structured in the work of Indiana.









The drugs don't work

THE BIG PICTURE

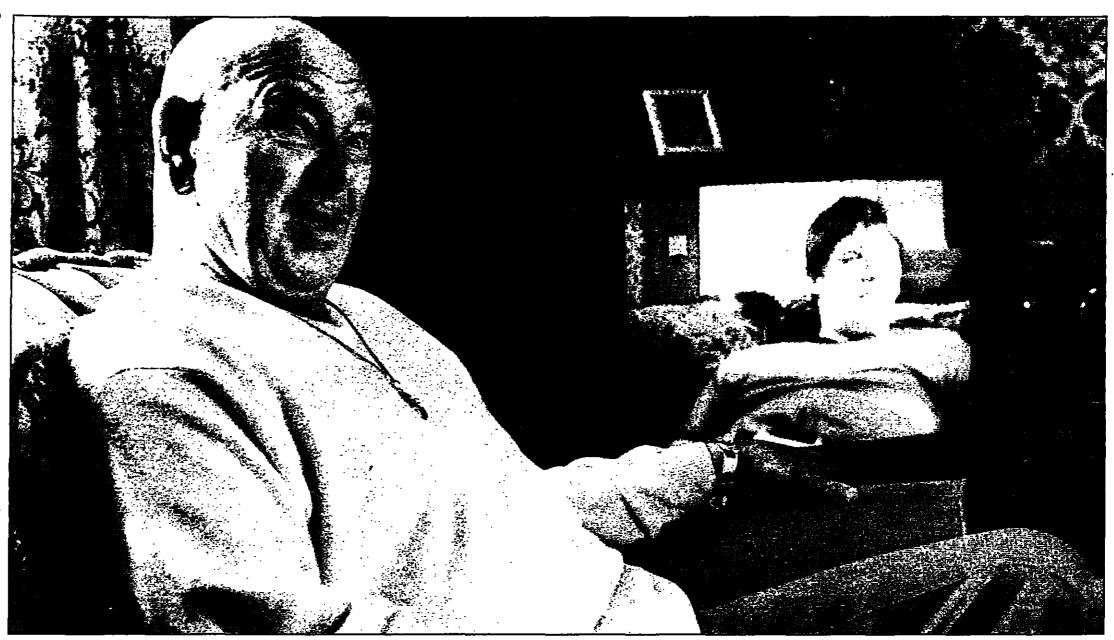


ANTHONY QUINN

THE ACID HOUSE (15) DIRECTOR: PAUL McGUIGAN STARRING: EWEN BREMNER. MARTIN CLUNES. KEVIN McKIDD **112 MINS**

to ring in the new year. Paul McGuigan's triptych of films adapted from stories by Irvine Welsh arrive like gatecrashers at a hogmanay do, the sort whose eye you'd rather not catch: raucous, tattooed, beerybreathed, radge (mad, in the local vernacular), though not without a certain profane vitality and wit. McGuigan has the unenviable task of following Trainspotting, Danny Boyle's high-profile adaptation of Welsh's first book, an instant cult hit whose inventiveness still reverberates through British cinema. Even the orange-and-black livery of that film's promotional poster bears an unforgettable iconographic integrity.

Confronted with largely the same milieu - the strugglers and stragglers of drab, lowlife Edinburgh -McGuigan has taken a sensible decision not to show off. Nothing in The Acid House matches the arresting visual cadenza of Ewan McGregor taking a nosedive into a toilet bowl. vet there is a measure of Trainspotting's deranged black comedy, scabrous banter and sudden violence. Regarding the last of these, it's well nigh impossible to watch the volcanic unpleasantness of Larry (Gary McCormack) raging through the middle story, "A Soft Touch", and not be reminded of the bantam aggression of Robert Carlyle's Begbie from the earlier film. It's the most realistic segment of the trio, relating the trials of Johnny (Kevin McKidd), left to mind his infant daughter while his sluttish wife Catriona



Alex Howden as Boab senior in "The Granton Star Cause', the first part of "The Acid House' trilogy

(Michelle Gomez) moves upstairs to service the noisy lust of his peroxide-yob neighbour, Larry. Having had his video and television appropriated by the rutting couple, the hapless cuckold suffers the final indignity of seeing a hole poked through his ceiling, swiftly followed by Larry leading an extension cable to a plug point in his living room: now he's stealing his electricity.

This anecdote of domestic rupture vigorously underlines the basic pessimism of Welsh's writing in that it portrays compassion as a weakness. Johnny learns nothing

heart at the story's end is not humane, just a reaffirmation that he will forever be a "soft touch". Not like Boab (Stephen McCole), subject of the first story, "The Granton Star Cause"; he, too, endures one mortification after another - dropped from the football team, dumped by his girlfriend, fired from his job and booted from the familial hearth by his parents - but, instead of crumpling under adversity, an encounter with "God" in a pub alters his whole perspective. "An'm gaunny make ye

from his humiliation; his change of are," God tells him, and promptly turns Boab into a fly. What follows is Metamorphosis crossed with a sick revenge fantasy: it feels characteristic of Welsh's sardonic humour that Boab discovers how "eating shit" – his metaphorical lot as a human - can be turned to physical advantage as an insect.

McGuigan uses harsh colour and distorting angles to convey the antic and somewhat feral turn of Welsh's imagination, though certain passages that fly off the page fail to tweak the funny bone in the same look like the dirty, lazy pest thit ye way on screen. When Boab is caught

vandalising a phone-box, for instance, he is hauled into the cells and given a savage doing over by a police sergeant. The reason? The policeman is a British Telecom shareholder, as he subsequently explains to Boab: "Ye ken, it jist goes tae show ye the effectiveness ay they privatisation policies. Ah would nivir huv reacted like that if ye had smashed up a phone-box when they were nationalised." The sudden change of register from demotic to officialese which is effected so wittily in prose seems cumbersome (and not very amusing) in the film. sponses apparently regressing to the ting hasn't already covered.

Welsh's sentences aren't exactly resistant to screen translation; it's just that their music goes missing. This is further evidenced in the concluding story, another grotesque fantasia of displacement in which a football hooligan named Coco (played with maniacal abandon by Ewen Bremner) has a supercharged acid trip on the night of a violent electrical storm and winds up trapped in the body of an infant newly born to a middle-class couple (Jemma Redgrave and Martin Clunes). Coco lies helpless in a hospital bed, his re-

level of a new-born baby. Again, Weish's comedy of language - a bairn who talks in the broken glass accent of a Hibs supporter - is rendered too explicitly as a body-swap nightmare, with a Chucky doll performing the role of demon baby. It encapsulates the problem which a book like The Acid House presents to the filmmaker. While Paul McGuigan's adaptation thrums with a sort of gleeful disgust, it feels oddly compromised, and says little about the druggy squalor of Edinburgh's low-rent hinterland that Trainspot-

ALSO SHOWING

STAR TREK: INSURRECTION JONATHAN FRAKES (PG) STCOM FRANÇOIS OZON (18)

FROM THE annals of inter- fects, but as long as you don't beautiful people, and indeed galactic pioneering comes an- mind the formula - confrontaother Star Trek movie, with ick Stewart: still baldly crew put to the test, edifying vhere most of the series sation is no more than a ine ingth episode garc with pricey special ef-



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tion with a race of tyrannical Stain Jean-Luc Picard expansionists, Picard and his spectacle of multiracial harin a'r, ady been. Star Trek: In-mony re-established - it makes for an amiable, undemanding entertainment

This time the plot concerns lead a life of nouveau-hippie contentment. It's like Palm Springs without the zimmer frames, for the Ba'ku inhabit an atmosphere that reverses the ageing process. Under the pretence of a cultural survey, a hostile tribe called the Son's aim to get their arthritic hands on a piece of this age-free paradise. thus ensuring their own longevity and sparing their leader, Ru afo, whose skin is as grey and wrinkly as an elephant's backside, the inconvenience of another facelift. Naturally, Pi-

finds his heart captured by a Ba'ku woman, Anij (Donna Murphy), despite her being more than 300 years old.

Directed by Jonathan Frakes, the film occasionally takes a time-out from the earnest cosmic hand-wringing for some light-hearted fun. I ena rural utopia where the Ba'ku joyed the moment when Picard and the Enterprise's wheyfaced android Data (Brent Spiner) did an impromptu duet from Gilbert and Sullivan, though for all it added to the plot it might as well have been Gilbert and George. Stewart retains a suave authority as Picard, and F Murray Abraham as Ru'afo glowers convincingly beneath his latex mask. How much longer the film-makers will continue remaking this space-age morality play is uncertain, though I can imagine it outstripping the lifespan of your average Ba'ku.

French farce that will irk or enchant according to taste. Set within the claustrophobic confines of a bourgeois household. it recounts the way a pet rat upsets the equilibrium of an apparently respectable family. First the son announces he's gay; then the daughter turns suicidal. Their mother, neglected by her frigid husband, decides to try her hand at incest, while the Spanish housekeeper exercises her wiles upon the daughter's boyfriend.

François Ozon's debut fea-

Ozon appears to be making it up as he goes along, while the cast mug through the Almodovarian antics as best they can, and looked to be every bit as relieved as I was when it came to a halt.

All films are on release from



DOUBLE BILL

PAUL McGUIGAN, DIRECTOR OF 'THE ACID HOUSE' ON HIS IDEAL CINEMATIC PAIRING

CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG (KEN HUGHES, GET CARTER (MIKE HODGES, 1971)

CHITTY CHITTY Bong Bang is one of my favourite films. It is a cute musical. But it's more of a spooky fairy tale. You never know where, or at what time, it's set. It uses such simple effects but they have a great impact. It's one of those things I liked as a child and my son, Seamus, who is four and a half, went through six months of watching it at least-once a week.

There are these really, really surreal bits; for instance, the child catcher. I don't know if there has ever been such an evil character in a children's film. He does that brilliant little dance and then there is his sweetie truck. It was probably quite innocent,

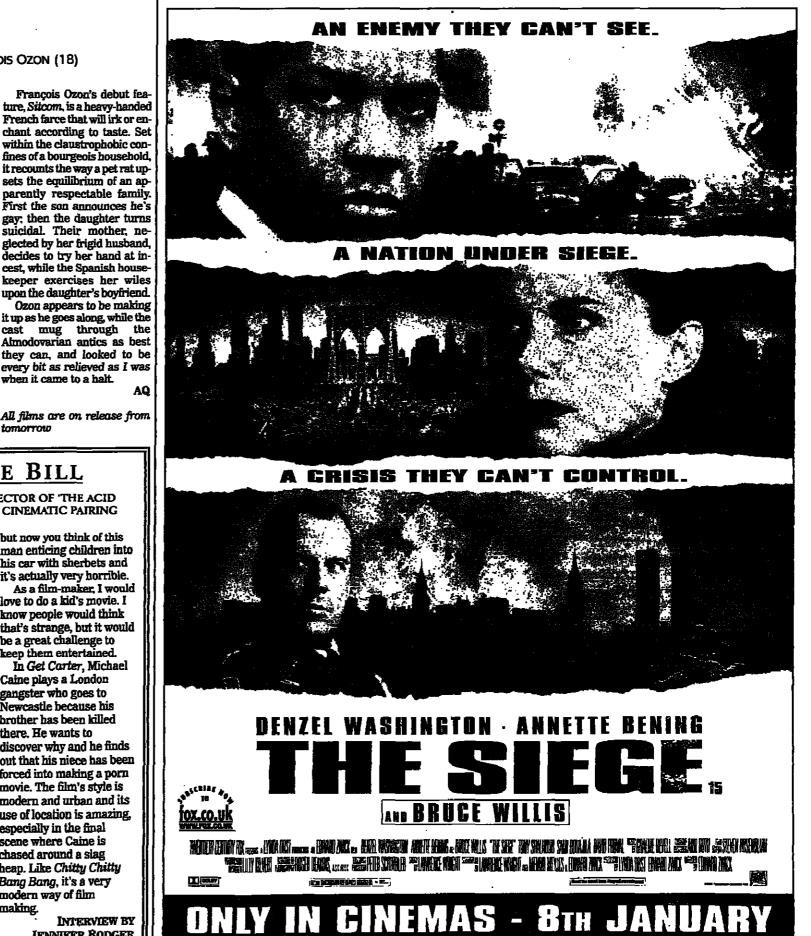
but now you think of this man enticing children into his car with sherbets and it's actually very horrible. As a film-maker, I would love to do a kid's movie. I know people would think that's strange, but it would be a great challenge to

keep them entertained.

In Get Carter, Michael

Caine plays a London gangster who goes to Newcastle because his brother has been killed there. He wants to discover why and he finds out that his niece has been forced into making a porn movie. The film's style is modern and urban and its use of location is amazing, especially in the final scene where Caine is chased around a slag heap. Like Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, it's a very modern way of film

> INTERVIEW BY JENNIFER RODGER



Director: Samirah Makhmalbaf Starring: Massoumeh Naderi, Zahra Naderi Seventeen-year-old Makhmalbaf's precocious début re-creates the true-life fortunes of Iran's Naderi sisters, raised in seclusion by their parents before being set loose by a social worker. Part docu-drama, part rites-of-passage fable. The

Apple is a luminous missive from a burgeoning

Iranian film scene. West End: Metro, Renoir

ENEMY OF THE STATE (15)

Director: Tony Scott

Starring: Will Smith, Gene Hackman Will Smith's fall-guy DA teams up with Gene Hackman's pensioned-off Pentagon warhorse in a tale of political intrigue. A top-drawer cast weaves in and out of the hi-tech imagery and adrenalised chase scenes. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Hammersmith Virgin, Notting Hill Coronet. Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington. Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, Screen on the Green, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road

THE MIGHTY (PG) Director: Peter Chelsom

Starring: Sharon Stone, Gillian Anderson Peter Chelsom's The Mighty is a stolid and rather predictable tale of two outcast kids in Cincinnati. Sharon Stone and Gillian Anderson cope well in what basically amount to supporting roles. West End: Barbican Screen, Curzon Soho, Gate Notting Hill, Richmond Filmhouse, Screen on the Hill, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket

WHAT DREAMS MAY COME (15) Director: Vincent Ward

Starring: Robin Williams, Annabella Sciorra Along comes Christmas, and out comes Whot Dreams May Come; an over-glazed turkey with all the trimmings. Williams simpers as the dead chappie who leaves a cod-Impressionist heaven to rescue his suicide-bride (Sciorra) from a Gothic hell. Metaphysical conceits arrive with a heavy dusting of sugar. West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Haymarket. Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage. UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

. Xan Brooks

GENERAL RELEASE

See The Independent Recommends, right. West End: Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys. Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

BABE: PIG IN THE CITY (U)

In the follow-up to Babe, knockabout comedy is kept to a minimum in favour of a bleak animatronic fairytale. West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

THE MASK OF ZORRO (PG)

This swashbuckler ga ops full-speed through 19th-century California in the company of Antonio Banderas's Hispanic do-gooder. West End: Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch. Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road

MULAN (U)

This has it all: pro-active heroine; strong father/daughter relationship; honour; nobility. It's also one of the most visually innovative movies that Disney has ever made. West End: Odeon Mezzanine, UCI Whiteleys, Warner Village West End

MY NAME IS JOE (15)

See The Independent Recommends, right. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Curzon Soho, Virgin Haymarket

THE NEGOTIATOR (15)

Samuel L Jackson and Kevin Spacey go head to head in this thrilling drama. West End: Odeon Morble Arch, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

OUT OF SIGHT (15)

See The Independent Recommends, right. West End: Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys. Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero

THE PARENT TRAP (PG)

Disney reheats its 1961 heart-warmer in this story of twin sisters' efforts to reunite their parents. West End: Clapham Picture House, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch. Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon

West End, UCI Whiteleys. Virgin Chelsea

THE PRINCE OF EGYPT (U) In planning his cartoon life of Moses, DreamWorks honcho Jeffrey Katzenberg envisaged it "painted by Claude Monet and photographed by David Lean". The end result winds up as The Ten Commandments by way of Joseph and his Technicolor Dreamcoat. West End: ABC Baker Street, ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Elephant & Castle Coronet, Empire Leicester Square, Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero

RUSH HOUR (15)

Rush Hour marries Jackie Chan with a LA backdrop, a jobbing Hollywood director and a wisecracking black comic in Chris Tucker's huckstering LAPD man. It's a hit-and-miss affair. West End: Hammersmith Virgin, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch. Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

THE THREE BEST FILMS

Out of Sight (15) This tale of love on opposite sides of the law knocks spots

off every previous Elmore Leonard adaptation, and boasts in George Clooney and Jennifer Lopez (right) the most romantic pairing of the cinematic year.

who becomes an unlikely opponent

This computer-animated comedy, voiced by a stellar cast stars a recovering alcoholic. Woody Allen as worker ant "Z",

of the colony's totalitarian regime when he falls in with Princess Bakla (Sharon Stone).

My Name is Joe (15) This solid social-realist drama contains all that one would expect from a Ken Loach film humour, indignation, emotional sympathy - driven by Peter Mullan's intense performance as

ANTHONY QUINN



THE THREE BEST PLAYS

Mr Puntila and His Man Matti (Albery Theatre) A well-deserved transfer for this

Right Size are inspired casting for Brecht's tale of a split-personality landowner. To 9 Jan Love Upon the Throne (Comedy Theatre)

The Charles and Diana story (up

to the divorce) presented by the

National Theatre of Brent (all

two of them). Very funny and oddly touching. To 9 Jan

Almeida hit. Comedy duo The Martin Guerre (West Yorkshire Playhouse) It's third time lucky for this much rewritten Boublil/Schönberg musical. In Conall Morrison's starkly involving production, it

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CINEMA

ABC BAKER STREET (0870-902 0418) ⊕ Baker Street Babe: Pig in the City 1.20pm, 6.10pm The Prince of Egypt 1.40pm, 4pm, 6.20pm What Dreams May

ABC PANTON STREET (0870-902 0404) & Piccadilly Circus Elizabeth 2.10pm, 5.10pm The Last Days of Disco 1.10pm, 3.40pm, 6pm Lock, Stock & Tiwo Smoking Barrels 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6pm A Perfect Murder 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6pm

ABC PICCADILLY (0171-287 4322 (from 1pm)
Piccadilly Circus Harnam: The
Turkish Bath 1.25pm, 3.50pm,
6.10pm Sturns of Beverly Hills 1.35pm, 3.50pm, 6.10pm

ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE (0870-902 0402) ⊕ Leicester Square/Tottenham Court Road Texas Chainsaw Massacre 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.40pm What Dreams May Come 1.05pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD (0870-902 0414) & Tottenham Court Road Babe: Pig in the City 1.10pm, 3.40pm Enemy of the State 1.05pm, 3.45pm, 6.25pm My Name is Joe 6.30pm The Prince of Egypt 1.15pm, 3.55pm, 6.50pm

BARBICAN SCREEN (0171-638 8891) & Barbican The Mighty 3pm, 6.15pm The Prince of Egypt 3pm, 5.30pm

CHELSEA CINEMA (0171-351 3742) ← Sloane Square On Connait la Chanson 1pm, 3.30pm.

CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE (0171-498 3323) & Clapham Common Babe: Pig in the City 12.30pm Enemy of the State 6.20pm. 9pm The Mask of Zdrro phone for times The Parent Trap 1pm, 3.45pm The Prince of Egypt phone for times What Dreams May Come 4.15pm

CURZON MAYFAIR (0171-369 1720) ⊕ Green Park Dancing at Lughnasa 4.30pm The Philadelphia Story 2pm, 6.30pm

CURZON SOHO (0171-734 2255 (12pm)

Deicester Square/Tottenham (12pm-6pm) Road Casablanca 2pm, Elizabeth 1.45pm The 4.45pm 1.45pm 1.15pm, 3.15pm, 5.15pm My Name

ELEPHANT AND CASTLE CORONET (0171-703 4968) ⊕ Elephant & Castle The Mask of Zorro phone for times The Prince of Egypt phone for times What Dreams May Come phone for

EMPIRE LEICESTER SOUARE 38990) & Leicester Square Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas 12.40pm, 3.15pm, 6.10pm Out of Sight 12.10pm, 2.55pm, 5.50pm The Prince of Egypt 10.45am. 1pm.

GATE NOTTING HILL (0171-727 4043) ⊕ Notting Hill Gate The Mighty 4.45pm, 6.55pm

HAMMERSMITH VIRGIN Babe: Pig in the City 12.40pm Enemy of the State 3pm, 6.10pm The Mask of Zorro 12noon, 3pm, 6pm The Parent Trap 12.10pm, 3pm form The Parent Trap 12.10pm. 3pm The Prince of Egypt 12.15pm. 2.20pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm

NOTTING HILL CORONET (0171-727 5705) © Notting Hill Gate Enemy of the State 3pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm

ODEON CAMDEN TOWN (08705-050007) Θ Camden Town Babe: Pig in the City 11.45am Enemy of the State 12.15pm, 3pm. 2.45pm, 5.40pm The Parent Trap 12.45pm, 5.40pm The Parent Trap 12.10pm, 2.55pm The Prince of Egypt 11.40am, 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm Rush Hour 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 6.45pm What Dreams May Come 5.55pm

ODEON HAYMARKET (08705-050007) Piccadilly Circus What Dreams May Come 1.10pm, 3.35pm, 6.05pm

ODEON KENSINGTON (08705-050007) © High Street Kensington Babe: Pig in the City 1.30pm, 3.55pm Enemy of the State 12.05pm, 3.10pm, 6.15pm The Mask 12.05pm, 3.10pm, 6.15pm The Mask of Zorro 2.25pm, 5.40pm Out of Sight 6.20pm The Parent Trap 1pm, 4pm The Prince of Egypt 12noon, 2.25pm, 4.50pm, 7.15pm, 9.40pm Rush Hour 7.05pm, 9.40pm What Dreams May Come 1.30pm, 4.15pm, 2nm

ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE (08705-050007) → Leicester Square The Mask of Zorro 11.40pm, 2.30pm

ODEON MARBLE ARCH (08705-050007) → Marble Arch Babe: Pig in the City 12.05pm Enemy of the State 12noon, 3.05pm, 6.05pm The Mask of Zorro 11.45am, 2.50pm, 5.55pm The Parent Trap 12.15pm, 3.15pm The Prince of Egypt 12.30pm, 3.20pm, 6.10pm Rush Hour 2.15pm, 4.40pm, 7.05pm What Dreams May Come 5.55pm

(08705-050007) © Leicester Square Elizabeth 12.35pm, 3.05pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.25pm, 3.55pm Les Miserables 3.30pm Mulan 1.40pm, 3.55pm Theory's Snake Eyes 1.05pm There's Something About Mary 12.45pm.

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ODEON SWISS COTTAGE (08705-050007) & Swiss Cottage

Babe: Pig in the City 12.10pm Enemy of the State 12.10pm, 2.50pm The Mask of Zorro 2.15pm The Parent Trap 12.15pm, 3.05pm The Prince of Egypt 1pm, 3.25pm Rush Hour 1,30pm, 4pm What Dreams May Come 12.30pm, 3.15pm

ODEON WEST END (08705-050007) ← Leicester Square Enemy of the State 12.30pm, 3.20pm, 5.30pm, 6.15pm The Parent Trap 12.05pm, 2.45pm

PEPSI IMAX CINEMA (0171-494 4153) & Piccadilly Circus Everest 2.40pm, 4.45pm T-Reic Back to the Cretaceous (3-D) 11.30am. 1.35pm, 3.40pm, 5:45pm

(0171-837 8402) → Russell Square The

Apple (Sib) 1pm, 2.55pm, 4.50pm, 6.45pm, 8.45pm On Connatt la Chanson 3.45pm, 8.35pm The Philadelphia Story 1.25pm, 6.15pm RITZY CINEMA (0171-733 2229) BR/O Brixton Antz 12.45pm, 2.45pm, 4.45pm Babe: Pig in the City 12.25pm, 2.25pm Enemy of the State 12.40pm, 3.20pm The Mask of Zorro 12.40pm, 3.30pm The Prince of Egypt 12noon, 2.15pm, 4.30pm La Vie Revée des Anges

SCREEN ON BAKER STREET Left Luggage 2.30pm, 4.40pm,

SCREEN ON THE GREEN (0171-226 3520) ← Angel/Highbury & Islington Enemy of the State 2.40pm, 5.30pm

SCREEN ON THE HILL (0171-435 3366) → Belsize Park Left The Mighty Luggage 4.40 2.40pm, 6.50pm 4.40pm

THE TRICYCLE CINEMA (01.71-328 1000) & Kilburn Enemy of the State 3.40pm (Thur), 6.20pm

UCI WHITELEYS (0990-888990) ← Queensway Antz 11.30am, 2pm, 4pm Babe: Pig in the City 11.10am, 12.10pm, 1.40pm, 2.30pm, 4.20pm Enemy of the State 11.40am, 2.45pm, 5.40pm The Mask of Zorro 12noon, 3.05pm, 6pm Mulan 11am Out of Sight phone for times The Parent Trap phone for times The Prince of Egypt 11.20am, 1.30pm, 5.50pm, 6.15pm What Dreams May Come 1.10pm, 4.10pm,

VIRGIN CHELSEA (0870-907 0710) Square/South Kens Sloane 1.15pm Enemy of the State 2.15pm, 5pm Out of Sight 8.30pm The Parent Trap 12.45pm, 3pm, 5.45pm Rush Hour 3.30pm, 6.15pm What Dreams

May Come 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm VIRGIN FULHAM ROAD (0870-907 0711) South Kensington Babe: Pig in the City 12noon, 2.10pm, 4.15pm Elizabeth 2pm, 12.30pm Enemy of the State 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 6pm The Mask of Zorro 12.20pm, 3.10pm, 6.10pm The Mighty 1pm, 4pm, 6.30pm The Negotiator 6.20pm The Prince of Egypt 12.10pm, 2.15pm, 4.25pm, 6.40pm

VIRGIN HAYMARKET Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas 12.45pm, 3.20pm, 6pm The Mighty 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm My Name

VIRGIN TROCADERO VIRGIN TROCADERU
(0870-907 0716) ⊕ Piccadilly Grous
Antz 12.20pm. 2.10pm, 4.10pm
Babe: Pig in the City 12.20pm,
2.20pm. 4.20pm Blade 6.25pm Out
of Sight 12.noon, 2.50pm, 5.40pm
The Prince of Egypt 12.50pm,
3.20pm. 5.50pm Rush Hour 3.20pm, 5.50pm Rush Hour 12.10pm, 2.25pm, 4,40pm, 7pm There's Something About Mary 6.20pm The Truman Show 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm What Dreams May Come 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 6pm

WARNER VILLAGE WEST END 71-437 4. de 1.40pm. 4.10 (25th Rerelease) 3.55pm, 6.40pm Lethal Weapon 4 1.10pm, 4pm, 6.50pm Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6,20pm Mulan 11.40pm, 3.55pm The Negotiator 11.40am, 2.40pm, 5.40pm A Perfect 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.25pm Rush Hour 12.50pm, 3.20pm, 6.30pm What Dreams May Come 12.20pm, 1.50pm, 3pm, 4.20pm, 5.30pm, 6.50pm.

CINEMA LONDON LOCALS

PARK ROYAL WARNER VILLAGE (0181-896 0066) @ Park Royal Antz 11.30am, 1.30pm, 3.40pm, 5,50pm Babe: Pig In the City 10.20am, 12.30pm, 2.40pm, 4.50pm The Mask of Zorro 12noon, 2.50pm, 5.40pm Mu-Ian 10.10am The Parent Trap 11.10am, 1.55pm, 4.40pm The Prince of Egypt 11am, 1.15pm, 4pm, 6.20pm Rush Hour 11.05am, 1.25pm, 3.50pm, 6.50pm Small Soldiers 11.15am What Dreams May Come 1.35pm, 4.10pm,

BECKENHAM ABC (0870 9020412) BR: Beckenham Junction Antz 12noon Babe: Pig in the City 1.20pm Enemy of the State 3.10pm, 6pm The Parent Trap (1961 Version) 12.20pm The Prince of Egypt 2pm. 4.15pm. 6.30pm What Dreams May Come 3.35pm, 6.10pm

CLOCKTOWER (0181-253 1030) BR:

SAFARI (0181-688 3422) BR: West Croydon, Babe: Pig in the City
12.10pm, 2.15pm Enemy of the State
5.20pm, 8.20pm The Mask of Zorro
12.05pm The Parent Trap 12.05pm,
2.40pm The Prince of Egypt 12noon,
2.30pm, 5.40pm

East Croydon Antz 11.20am, 1.20pm, 3.25pm, 5.20pm Babe: Pig in the City 10.40am, 1pm, 3.15pm, 5.45pm Enemy of the State 12noon, 2.50pm, 6pm The Mask of Zorro 12.05pm, 3pm, 5.55pm Mulan 10.10am The Parent Trap 11.40am, 2.40pm, 5.40pm The Prince of Egypt 10.30am, 12.50pm, 3.10pm, 5.30pm Rush Hour 10.50am, 1.10pm, 3.30pm, 6.05pm Small Soldiers 10.20am What Dreams May Come 12.40pm,

FDMONTON LEE VALLEY UCI 12 (0990-888990) + Tottenham Hale Antz 10.45am, 1.05pm, 3.20pm, 5.35pm Babe: Pig in the City 11.15am, 12.30pm, 1.45pm, 3.10pm, 4.10pm, 5.30pm, 6.35pm Enemy of the State 12noon, 12.45pm, 3pm, 3.45pm, 5.55pm, 6.45pm The Mask of Zorro 2.45pm, 5.45pm The Mighty 2.35pm, 5.20pm Mulan 11.35am The Parent Total 15pm, 4.15pm, 15.5pm The Parent Total 15pm, 4.15pm, 15.5pm The Parent Total 15pm, 4.15pm, 15.5pm, 5.20pm Mulan 11.35am The Parent Total 15pm, 4.15pm, 4.1 Trap 1.15pm, 4.15pm The Prince of Egypt 10.45am, 11.30am, 1.05pm. 2pm, 3.35pm, 4.35pm, 6.05pm, 7pm, 8.25pm Rush Hour 1.35pm, 4pm, 6.20pm Small Soldiers 10.55am What Dreams May Come 1.25pm, 4.25pm

FINCHLEY ROAD WARNER VILLAGE (0171-604 3110) WARNER VILLAGE (0171-604 3110)

Finchley Road Antz 11.10am,
1.30pm Babe: Pig in the City 10.20am,
2.40pm, 5.10pm Enemy of the State
12.30pm, 3.40pm, 6.30pm The Mask
of Zorro 11.20am, 2.20pm, 5.30pm The
Negotiator 5.40pm The Parent Trap
10.25am, 1pm, 3.35pm, 6.40pm The
Prince of Egypt 10.30am, 12.45pm,
3.10pm, 5.50pm Rush Hour 2.50pm,
5.20pm Small Soldiers 12.10pm What
Dreams May Come 12.50pm, 3.20pm. Dreams May Come 12.50pm, 3.20pm,

ABC (0870-9020413) & Belsize Park Babe: Pig in the City 1.30pm, 3.40pm Enemy of the State 5.55pm The Parent Trap 2.20pm The Prince of Egypt 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 6.15pm What Dreams May Come 5.55pm

HOLLOWAY Prince of Egypt 12.10pm, 2.20pm, 4.35pm Rush Hour 12.05pm, 2.20pm, 4.35pm, 6pm Small Soldiers 12noon

KINGSTON ABC OPTIONS (0870-9020409) BR: Kingston Antz 1.35pm Enemy Of the

ODEON (08705 050007) © Highgate Babe: Pig in the City 12.20pm Ene-my Of the State 2.50pm, 5.30pm The Mask of Zorro 2.30pm, 5.20pm The Egypt 1pm, 3.30pm, 6pm

ABC (0870-9020407) BR: Purley Babe: Pig in the City 1.35pm, 3.35pm Enemy of the State 4.40pm The Parent Trap 2.10pm The Prince of Egypt

ABC (0870 9020401) BR: Putney/OP Putney Bridge Antz 1.15pm Babe: Plg in the City 1.30pm, 3.45pm Enemy of the State 5.15pm The Parent Trap 2.15pm The Prince of Egypt 3.45pm, 6.15pm What Dreams May Come from

RICHMOND 40pm The Prince of Egypt 1.10pm

ODEON STUDIO (08705 050007) BR/O Richmond Antz 2pm, 4pm Babe: Pig in the City 1.30pm Out of Sight 6pm The Parent Trap 12.30pm, 3.10pm

11.45am, 2.35pm Babe: Pig In the City 11.45am, 2.35pm Babe: Pig In the City 11.35am, 12.20pm, 1.45pm, 2.50pm, 4.10pm, 5.10pm, 7.20pm Enemy of the State 12noon, 12.40pm, 3pm, 3.20pm, 6pm The Mask of Zorro 12.30pm, 3.30pm, 6.30pm Mulan 11.15am The Parent Trap 12.10pm, 3.05pm, 5.50pm The Prince of Egypt 10.45am. 1.15pm. 3.45pm. 6.15pm Rush Hour 5pm. 7.30pm What Dreams May Come

NEW STRATFORD PICTURE HOUSE (555 3366) BR/O Stratford East Babe: Pig in the City 12.15pm, 2.15pm, 4.15pm Enemy of the State 3.15pm. 6pm The Mask of Zorro 12.10pm, 3pm, 5.50pm The Parent Trap 12.40pm The Prince of Egypt 12noon, 2.05pm, 4.30pm What Dreams May Come

TURNPIKE LANE O Turnpike Lane Enemy of the State phone for details The Mask of Zorro phone for details The Parent Trap phone for details The Prince of Egypt phone

WALTHAMSTOW Central Antz 1.10pm Babe: Pig in the City 12.55pm Enemy of the State 3.15pm The Parent Trap 12.40pm The Prince of Egypt 3.35pm What Dreams May Come 3.20pm

Eltham The Prince of Egypt phone for details What Dreams May Come phone

NFI South Bank SE1 (0171-633 0274) Sling Blade 4pm The Wind and the Lion Thur 4.15pm

Lekester Place WC2 (0171-437 8181) Cop Land 1pm The X-Fles

BRIGHTON
DUKE OF YORK'S (01273-626261)

(01223-504444) Elizabeth 2pm My

(01603-622047) It's a Wooderful Life 8.15pm There's Something

THEATRE WEST END

Ticket availability details are for today. times and prices for the week; running times include intervals. ——Seats at all prices) — Seats at some prices () — Returns only Matinees — [1]: Sun. [3]: Tue. [4]: Wed. [5]: Thur. [6]: Fri. [7]: Sat

ALARMS AND EXCURSIONS Michael Frayn's new comedy about a dinner party which is interrupted by mysterious messages stars Felicity Kendal and Josie Lawrence. Gielgud Shaftesbury Avenue, WT (0171-494 5065) ⊕ Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5][7] 3pm, £19.50-£27.50. 130 mins.

● AMADEUS David Suchet stars as Salieri in Peter Shaffer's acclaimed dra-ma. Old Vic The Cut, SE1 (0171-928 7616/cc 420 0000) BR/O Waterloo. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 2.30pm, [7] 3pm, from £7.50-£30. 180 mins.

● ANNIE Rags to riches story of the

optimistic orphan. Victoria Palace Vic-toria Street, SWI (0171-834 1317) BR/& Victoria. Tue-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm. [1] 4pm. £7.50-£32.50. 165 mins. ART Larry Lamb, Jack Dee. Tim Healy in Yasmina Reza's comedy about art and friendship. Wyndham's Charing Cross Road. WC2 (0171-369 1736/cc

8.00pm. [4] 3.00pm. [7][1] 5.00pm. £9.50-£27.50. 90 mins. BEAUTY AND THE BEAST Lavish family musical based on Disney's car-toon version of the favourite fairy tale. Dominion Tottenham Court Road, W1 (0171-656 1888) ⊕ Tott Ct Rd. Today 2.30pm, £18.50-£35. 150 mins.

0171-867 1111) @ Leic Sq. Tue-Sat

● BLOOD BROTHERS Willy Russell's long-running Liverpool musical melo-drama about twins who are separated at hirth. Phoenix Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1733) & Leic Sq/fott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.45pm. [5] 3.00pm, [7] 4.00pm. £11.50-£32.50. 165 mins.

● BOOGIE NIGHTS Shane Richie stars in a brand new 1970s musical. Savor Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8888/cc 0171 836 0479] & Charing X/Embankment. Mon-Thu 8pm, Fri-Sat 8.30pm. [6] 5.30pm, [7] 5pm, ends 9 Jan, £11-£28.50, 150 mins.

▶ CATS Lloyd Webber's musical version of TS Eliot's poems. New London Parker Street. WC2 (0171-405 0072/cc 0171-404 4079) ⊕ Covent Garden/Holborn, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [3][7] 3.00pm, booking to June 26, £12.50-

O CHICAGO Maria Friedman and Peter Davison star in this hit Broadway musical about two murderous women and their nightclub act. Adelphi Maiden Lane, WC2 (0171-344 0055)

Charing X. Mon-Sat 8pm, [4][7] 3pm, booking to Sep 25, £16-£36 (including fee). 130 mins.

CINDERELLA Angela Carter's version of this fairytale is staged by the acclaimed Improbable Theatre. Lyric Hammersmith King Street, W6 (0181-741 2311) Hammersmith Today 2.30pm. ends 9 Jan. £5-£18, concs

THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED) Reduced Shakespeare Company fast-forward through 37 plays Criterion Piccadilly Circus, W1 (0171-369 1747) → Picc Circ. Today 3pm & 8pm, £6-£25. Thu mats - all seats £10.

DR DOLITTLE Phillip Schofield talks to the animals in this new stage adap-tation featuring Jim Henson Puppets. London Apollo Hammersmith Queen Caroline Street, W6 (0171-416 6022) Hammersmith, Today 2.30pm, E10-£32.50. 150 mins.

● FAME THE MUSICAL High-octat stage version of the TV series charting the highs and lows of a class of young showbiz hopefuls. Prince of Wales Coventry Street, W1 (0171-839 5972) D Lelc 50/Picc Circ. Mon-Thu 8pm. Fri 5.30pm & 8.30pm. Sat 4pm & 8pm. ends 16 Jan. £15-£30.

O FILUMENA Judi Dench and Michael Pennington star in Timberlake Wertenbaker's new translation of Ed-uardo de Filippo's play. Piccadilly Den-man Street, W1 (0171-369 1734) & Today 3pm. ends 27 Feb, £12-£30.

GREASE Energetic stage version of the hit film about life in an American

 AN EDEAL HUSBAND Christopher Cazenove and Susannah York in Peter Hall's acclaimed production of Wilde's comedy Lyric Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5045) & Picc Circ. Tonight 7.45pm, £8.50-£29.50. 165 mins.

● AN INSPECTOR CALLS Stephen Daldry's widely-acclaimed production of JB Priestley's thriller Garrick Charing Cross Road, WCZ (0171-494-5085) ● Lek: Sq. Mon-Fri 7.45pm, Sat 8.15pm, [4] 2.30pm, [7] 5.00pm, £10.50-£25. 110 mlns.

) INTO THE WOODS Southeim and Lapine's acclaimed musical based on fairytales. Donmar Warehouse Eartham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732)

Covent Garden. Tonight 7.30pm, £15-

) THE INVENTION OF LOVE TOTAL Stoppard's play about the life of poet A E Houseman, author of *The Shropshire Lod*. Theatre Royal, Haymarket Haymarket. SW1 (0171-930 8800) & Picc Circ. Tue-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm.

● JESUS, MY BOY Tom Conti stars in John Dowie's alternative Christmas show. Apollo Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5070) ⊕ Picc Circ. Today 5pm & 8pm, £5.50-£18.50.

● KAFKA'S DICK Eric Sykes and Julia Mackenzie star in Alan Bennett's com-edy about the moribund writer. Piccadilly Denman Street, W1 (0171-369 1734) → Picc Circ. Tonight 8pm, ends 26 Feb.

● LOVE UPON THE THRONE Tasteful look at the Charles and Diana mar-riage. Comedy Panton Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731) & Picc Circ/Leic Sq. Tonight 8pm, ends 9 Jan, £7.50-£25.) LES MISERABLES Musical drama-

tisation of Victor Hugo's masterpiece. Palace Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-434 0909) & Picc Circ, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5][7] 2.30pm, £7-£35. 195 mins. MISS SAIGON Musical which resets the Modom Butterfly tragedy to Vietnam. Theatre Royal, Drury Lane Catherine Street. WCZ (0171-494 5060) ← Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4][7] 3.00pm, £5.75-£35. 165 mins.

● THE MOUSETRAP Agatha Christie's whodumit St Martin's West Street, WC2 (0171-836 1443) ← Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 8.00pm, [3] 2.45pm, [7] 5.00pm, £10-£24.50, 135 mins.

MR PUNTILA AND HIS MAN MAT-

Ti Sean Foley and Hamish McColl star in a new version of Brecht's comedy satire. Albery St Martin's Lane. WC2 (0171-369 1730) ← Leic Sq. Mon-Sat 7.30pm. [5][7] 3pm, ends 9 Jan. £5-€23 50 OTHE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA Andrew Lloyd Webber's Gothic musical.

494 5400/cc 0171-344 4444) 👄 Picc

stv's Havmarket. SW1 (0171-

Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4][7] 3.00pm, PRENT Musical inspired by La Boheme and set in modern day New York. Shaftesbury Shaftesbury Avenue, WCZ (07000-211221) ← Holborn/Tott Ct Rd.

Mon-Sat 7.30pm. [4][7] 3pm, £12.50-ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE OLIVIER: Peter Pan Stephen Oliver's music accompanies the tale of the Boy Who Would Not Grow Up, with Michael Bryant as the Storyteller. In rep today

2pm & 7.15pm. LYTTELTON: Betrayal Pinter's defining work depicts a menage a trois and stars Imogen Stubbs and Douglas Hodge. In rep tonight 6pm. 90 mins.

O COTTESLOE: Copenhagen New dra-ma from Michael Frayn about the discovery of the atom. In rep tonight 7.30pm. 145 mins. Olivier & Lyttelton: £8-£27. Cottesloe: £12-£18. Day seats om 10am. South Bank, SE1 (0171-452 3000). BR/& Waterloo.

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPA-THE BARBICAN: The Tempest Adrian Noble directs Shakespeare's romance drama. In rep tonight 7.15pm.

THE PIT: The Two Gentlemen Of

Verona Shakespeare's witty comedy is directed by Edward Hall. In rep today 2pm & 7.15pm. Barbican Theatre: E5-E26. The Pit: £11-£18.50. Barbican Centre. EC2 (0171-638 8891). BR/O Barbican/Moorgate. O SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER Hit O SATURDAY MIGHT PEVEN III.

1970s musical featuring legendary
songs by the Bee Gees and starring
Adam Garcia. London Palladium Argyll Street. W1 (0171-494 5020) ⊖
Oxford Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7]

2.30pm, £10-£32.50. 135 mins. **STARLIGHT EXPRESS Andrew** STARLIGHT EAF-KESS Andrew Lloyd Webber's hi-tech roller-musical, Apollo Victoria Wilton Road, SW1 (0171-416 6070) BR/O Victoria. Ioday 5pm, £12.50-£30, 150 mins.

O THINGS WE DO FOR LOVE Belinda Lang stars in Alan Ayckbourn's comedy. Duchess Catherine Street. WC2 (0171-494 5075/cc 0171-344 4444) O Covent Garden, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5][7] 3pm, ends 23 Jan. £15-£27.50. 140 mins.

THE WEIR Conor McPherson's drama is set in Ireland and examines ideas of ghosts and angels. Royal Court Downstairs (at the Duke Of York's) St Martin's Lane. WC2 (0171-565 5000) & Leic So/Charing X. Today 4pm,) WEST SIDE STORY Brand new

production of Bernstein's classic musical, attempting to recreate the feel of the original Broadway hit. Prince Edward Old Compton Street, W! (017). 447 5400) ♦ Leic Sq/Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5][7] 3pm, £15-£35. OWNERS DOWN THE WIND Lloyd

Webber's new musical based on the film

of the same name. Aldwych Aldwych,

2428) → Holborn, Today 5pm, £10-£32.50, 120 mlns.

WC2 (0171-416 6000/cc 0171-836

● THE WOMAN IN BLACK Susan Hill's chilling ghost story. Fortune Russell Street. WC2 (0171-836 2238/cc 0171-344 4444) ♦ Covent Garden/Holborn. Mon-Sat 8pm, [3] 3pm, Sat 4pm, £8.50-£23.50, 110 mins.

finally emerges as a tighter.

magnificent show. To 13 Feb

THEATRE BEYOND THE WEST END

HACKNEY EMPIRE Dick Whittington and His Cat Anita Dobson and Paul Moriarty star. Today 2.30pm & 6pm. ends 10 Jan. £5.50-£15.50. Mare Street, E8 (0181-985 2424) BR: Hackney Central.

HAMPSTEAD THEATRE Little Malcolm and His Struggle Against the Eu-nuchs Ewan McGregor stars as the revolutionary activist in David Halli-well's drama. Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Sat 3.30pm, ends 2 Jan. £9-£16, concs £6. Avenue Road, NW3 (0171-722 9301) Swiss Cottage.

RICHMOND THEATRE Jack and the Beanstalk Toyah Willeox, Mark Curry and Vicki Michelle join the stars of Rainbow. Today 2pm & 7pm, ends 30 Jan. £8-£15, concs available. The Green. Richmond, Surrey (0181-940 0088)

WINELEDON THEATRE Cinderella An all-star cast in this year's panto extravaganza - Britt Ekland, Bradley Walsh, Kriss Akabusi, Gary Bushell and Generation Game's Melanie Stace. To-day 2pm & 7pm, ends 31 Jan. £9-£16.50, concs available. The Broad-way, SW19 (0181-540 0362)

THEATRE

BASINGSTOKE HAYMARKET THEATRE Canterbury Tales Join the Wife of Bath and Chaucer's other characters in Merrie Olde England Tonight 7.45pm, ends 9 Jan. £10.50-£16.50, concs available. Wote Street (01256-465566)

BRIGHTON THEATRE ROYAL Mother Goose Christopher Biggins is Mother Goose. To-day 2pm & 5pm, ends 9 Jan. £7.50-£12.50, concs available. Bond Street (01273-328488)

GARDNER ARTS CENTRE The Wind

in the Willows Kenneth Grahame's en-chanting tale of river life is adapted for the stage. Today 2.30pm. £6.95-£8.95, concs available. University of Sussex, Lewes Road (01273-685861) EVERYMAN THEATRE Aladdin

Princesses, pagodas and antics in Peking, Today 12pm & 4pm, ends 16 Jan. £4.50-£13. Regent (01242-572573) DARTFORD ORCHARD THEATRE Aladdin Gladia tor Cobra stars in this panto spectacular. Today 2pm & 5pm, ends 17 Jan.

EASTBOURNE DEVONSHIRE PARK THEATRE CINderella Eastbourne's Christmas treat starring Hinge and Bracket and Wendy Craig. Today 3pm, ends 10 Jan. £7-£11, concs available. Compton Street (01323-

GUILDFORD YVONNE ARNAUD THEATRE Jack and the Beanstalk Rosemarie Pord, Tim Brooke-Taylor and Robert Powell join Are You Being Served's Trevor Bannister Yoday 2.30pm & 7pm, ends 3 Jan. £9.50-£17.50. concs available. Millbrook

WOLSEY THEATRE A Christmas Carof The Wolsey Theatre offers Dickens's tale of greed in Victorian London as an alternative to pantomime. Today 2pm, ends 9 Jan. £5-£15, concs available. Civic Drive (01473-253725)

NORTHAMPTON

NOKI HARRI TON THEATRE ROYAL Aladdin East Anglia's biggest pantomime stars Desmond Bar-rit, Christopher Cazenove and Nichola McAuliffe, Today 2.30pm § 7.30pm, ends 24 Jan. £3-£12.75, concs available. Theatre Street (01603-£30000) Theatre Street (01603-630000) APOLLO THEATRE Jesus Christ Superstar Tim Rice and Lloyd Webber's acclaimed biblical musical. Today 3pm,

ends 9 Jan. E7.50-E24.50, concs avail-able. George Street (01865-244544) PLYMOUTH BARBICAN THEATRE Beauty and the Beasties Updated version of the classic love story. Today 2.30pm & 7.30pm, ends 9 Jan. £7.50, cones

£4.50. Castle Street (01752-267131) POOLE ARTS CENTRE Aladdin Dora Bryan stars as the Slave Of the Ring alongside Tracey Childs and David McAlister of Hollycolds. Today 2.30pm & 7pm, ends 16 Jan. £5,90-£11.50, concs available. Kingland Road (01202-685222)

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON ROYAL SHAKESPEARE THEATRE The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe Adri-an Noble directs Adrian Mitchell's adap-tation of the CS Lewis Namia classic. Today 2.30pm & 7.15pm, ends 27 Feb.

SWAN THEATRE A Month in the Country Brian Friel's adaptation of Turgeney's portrait of all-consuming sexual desire. Michael Attenboroug directs. Tonight 7.30pm, ends Feb 20 Incluse and Cressida Shakespeare's depiction of the human spirit undermined by bloody warfare. Ioday 1.30pm. ends Feb 20. E5-E30.

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CINEMA REPERTORY PRINCE CHARLES WARNER VILLAGE (0181-680 8090) BR WATERMANS ARTS CENTRE High Sreet, Brentford, Middlesex (0181-568 1176) Dancing at Lughnasa 3.30pm, Mulan 1.30pm. Elizabeth 2pm Fire 4.30pm Mulan 3.20pm, 5.50pm 12pm. ARTS CINEMA Name is Joe 4.30pm NORWICH CINEMA CITY About Mary 2.30pm, 5.30pm.

HAMPSTEAD

Road/Archway Antz 4.30pm, 6.30pm Babe: Pig In the City 12.15pm, 2.20pm Enemy of the State 12noonm, 2.20pm. 2.45pm, 5.10pm, 5.35pm The Mask of Zorro 1.40pm, 5pm Mulan 12.55pm The Parent Trap 12.35pm, 3.15pm The

MUSWELL HILL

PURLEY

ODEON (08705 050007) BR/ Rich mond Enemy of the State 12.10pm, 3pm, 6pm The Mask of Zorro 2.10pm

What Dreams May Come 1.30pm. SURREY QUAYS UCI (0990 888990) & Surrey Quays Antz

I.25pm, 4pm, 6.50pm

CORONET (0181-888 2519)

WELL HALL CORONET (0181-850 3351) BR:

Waterside (01789-295623)

12.30 ayton: A

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NEW YEAR'S EVE RADIO

RADIO 1 (976-998MHz FM) 7.00 Chris Moyles. 10.00 Scott Mills. 100 Kevin Greening. 4.00 The Official UK Top 40 of the Year, 7.00 Pete Tong's Essential Selection. 10.00 Radio 1 Live in Glasgow.

The Supplement

N. Nill tell area.

4 - 12 P

12.00 - 6.00 Essential New Year. RADIO 2 (88-902MHz FM) 6.00 Mo Dutta. 8.05 Sarah Kennedy. 10.00 Richard Allinson. 12.00 Jimmy Young. 2.00 Alex Lester. 5.05 Johnnie Walker. 7.00 Luther Vandross New Year Collection. 8.00 Paul Jones. 9.00 Barry Took's Cornedy Classics, 9.30 Love 40 - New Balls Please. 10.00 Richard Alfinson's New Years Eve Party. 1.00 Katrina Leskanich. 3.00

4,00 Nicky Home.

RADIO 3

(90.2-92.4MHz FM) 6.00 On Air. 9.00 Masterworks. 10.30 Artist of the Week 11.00 Sound Stories. 12.00 Composer of the Week: 1.00 Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert. 2.00 The BBC Orchestras. 4.00 Mozart Voices. 4.45 Music to Die For, 5.00 A Medieval Christmas. 5.30 Music Rooms. 6.00 Discovering Music with Leonard Statkin. 7.00 Cabaret Cocktails. 7.30 Performance on 3. Another chance to hear nine of the most memorable concerts of the 1998 BBC Proms season at the Royal Albert Hall, London. 8: In Prom 60, given on 3 September, featured one of the great world orchestras with Mahler's titanic fifth symphony and a major new work by Birtwistle commissioned for Chicago. It is based on the idea of discontinuous time and takes the moment just before midnight as a point of departure into a new world. Chicago SO/Daniel

Mahler: Symphony No 5 in C sharp minor. (R) 9.30 Postscript. Peter Holland talks to ten Shakespeare experts about the Bard today. 4: 'Queer Shakespeare?". Bruce Smith and Alan Sinfield discuss gay interpretations of The Merchant of Venice'. 9.50 Schubert Songs, Some

6.00 Clubhouse Detectives (1996) (47783). 8.00 A Kid in King Arthur's

Court (1995) (53561). 10.00 Carpool

ood Buzz (7696). 8.00 When Harry

he Willows (1996) (44499615). **11-00**

33). **1.00** A Message from Holly 92) (86399). **3.00** Jules Verne's 800

sagues down the Amazon (1994) 9306). **5.00** Behind the Waterfall (1995)

996) (68702), **8.30** Action Haroes (5219).

00 Crocodia Dundee (1986) (78219). 00 Turbulence (1997) (364702). 12.40

th School High (1996) (4759159). 2.05

ire Journals (1997) (61340710).

1949) (65826791), **5.20** Close.

4.00 Cornered (1945) (7145899). 6.00

Pony Express (1953) (9544561). 8.00 AFI's

One Hundred Years (6929764), 10.30 Citi-

zen Kane (1941) (7727035). **12.30** Mr Majestyk (1974) (7507468). **2.30** The Rain-

DOW (1989) (4746739). 4.05 Africa Screams

6.00 Alphaville (1965) (2604702). 8.00 1984 (1984) (2683219). 10.00 2025: a

Space Odyssey (1968) (28132431). 12.20 THX 1138 (1970) (7877772). 1.45 The Navi-

gator (1988) (2274536). 3.15 - 6.00 The

(8580122). 4.30 Walker's World (8586306).

(2946615). **5.30** Jurassica (8500986). **6.00** Animal Doctor (8507899). **6.30** Danger

to Earth (8.00pm-12.00): Reason to Believe

11.00 Dreamland (8816667), 12.00 Inten-

Last Bartle (1983) (64804333).

4.00 Rex Hunt's Fishing Adventures

5.00 Connections 2 by James Burke

Beach (2050412). 7.30 Beyond 2000 (8587035), **8.00** Men in Black: UFO, Down

(5280290). 9.00 Great Balls of Fire

(5200054). 10.00 Retrieval (5203141).

DISCOVERY CHANNEL

SKY CINEMA

icas (1986) (795352). 3,45 - 6.00 Vam-

95108). **7.00** The Wind in the Willows

v's Return to Snowy River (1988)

! Sally (1989) (60290). 10.00 The

over (1995) (37714772).

Y MOVIEMAX

SKY PREMIER

Barenboim. Birtwistle: Exody.

PICK OF THE DAY

1999 WILL BE the year of Noel Payn (9.45pm R4), which Coward (right), it being the explains itself. Between those centenary of his birth, and the two is Tonight at 8.30 (8.30pm BBC likes a good centenary. R4), which features two of the The jamboree kicks off tonight plays Coward produced under with two features, A Presence that label. "Red Peppers" is a of Laughter (8pm R4) in which daft sketch about second-rate Christopher Cook gives us a music-hall artists. "Still Life" view of Coward's achievements the basis for Brief Encounter - is and what we can expect in much better, but you miss Celia 1999, and My Life with Noel: Reminiscences of Graham

favourite Schubert songs recorded

at the 1998 Schwetzingen Festival.

Ruth Ziesak (soprano), Helmut Deutsch (piano), Rastlose Liebe; Er-ster Verlust; Suleika 1; Sei mir

gegrusst, D741; Dass sie hier gewe-

sen; Du bist die Ruh; Lachen und

weinen; Geheimes; An den Mond,

D296; Klarchens Lied; Ganymed.

an Jack samples the Neapolitan

10.45 Book, Music and Lyrics. Six

programmes in which Robert Cush-

man presents a personal view of

musicals, with songs from original

some less well known, 6: 'Clowns'. A

people who really were comic - and

Mostel, Bob Hope, Martha Rave, Sid

cast recordings - some familiar,

tribute to some musical comedy

music as well: Fanny Brice, Zero

1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night.

6.00 Today. 9.00 NEWS; In Our Time with

9.45 Serial; Peter Pan and Wendy. 10.00 NEWS; Woman's Hour.

11.30 Old Dog and the Partridge.

2.15 Afternoon Play: Open Secrets.

3.00 NEWS; Call You and Yours:

12.00 NEWS; You and Yours.

11.00 From Our Own Correspondent.

9.30 Hancock and Son.

1.00 The World at One.

1.30 Hidden Treasures.

2.00 NEWS; The Archers.

Caesar and others.

11.30 Jazz on 3.

(92.4-946MHz FM)

RADIO 4

Melvyn Bragg.

0171 580 4444.

10.35 The Harmonic Series. 8: Adri-

Johnson and Trevor Howard. ROBERT HANKS



3.45 Swimming into Ninety Nine. 4.00 Word of Mouth. 4.30 The Material World. 5.00 PM. 6.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.30 The Worriers. 7.00 NEWS; The Archers. 7:15 Front Row, 'Old Acquaintance'. What makes a pop star with a global audience remain loyal to his or her home town? John Wilson investi-

gates, with the help of Michael Stipe from REM, Bjork, and John Cale of the Velvet Underground 7.45 Under One Roof, The second of three five-part dramatisations from the Michele Hanson stories, with Janet Maw, Edna Dore and Luisa Bradshaw-White (4/5). 8.00 NEWS; A Presence of Laughter: Coward's Century. The

centenary of the birth of Noel Ciward falls in 1999, and to mark the anniversary glittering new productions of his plays, comedies and musicals are planned, as well as the publication of previously unknown work. Christopher Cook gives a foretaste of the centenary events, with archive contributions from Coward himself. See Pick of the Day.

8.30 Tonight at 8.30. 'Still Life' by Noel Coward, adapted by Malcolm McKee. When Laura Jesson finds some grit in her eye, her brief en- . counter with Dr Alec Harvey at Milford Junction station begins a series of secret assignations. With Amanda Root and John Duttine. Director Sue Wilson. See Pick of the Day. 9.00 Red Pappers. George and Lily Pepper, a second-rate music hall act. farly bad touring venue. With Nickolas Grace, Susie Blake, Clifford Rose and Josephine Tewson. Director Sue Wilson. See Pick of the Day. 9.45 My Life with Noel -Reminiscences of Graham Pavn, Bv Barry Day. Coward's companion, the actor Graham Payn, rounds off the

evening with reminiscences of his life with Noel. See Pick of the Day. 10.00 NEWS; Pick of the Year. Highlights of 1999 on BBC radio celebrated by Peter White. 10.45 Book at Bedtime: Five Dahls. Vengeance is Mine Inc' by Roald Dahl, read by William Hootkins. A couple of hard-up Americans devise a brilliant scheme to avenge celebrities who have been insulted by

newspaper columnists (4/5). 11.00 99 How Are Ya? We're the Nualas. Comedy with Anne Gildea, Susan Collins, Susannah de Wrixon, Feargal Murray, Dara O'Brian and a special guest. tL30 Jason Byrne.

12.00 News. 12.30 The Late Book: The Restraint of Beasts 12.48 Shipping Forecast. 1.00 As World Service.

5.30 World News. 5.35 Shipping Forecast. 5.40 Inshore Forecast. 5.45 Prayer for the Day. 5.47 - 6.00 Farming Today. RADIO 4 LW (198kHz)

9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service. 12.00 - 12.04 News; Shipping Forecast. are struggling to survive in a particu-

RADIO 5 LIVE (693, 909kHz MW) 6.00 Proops's Hoops. (R) 6.30 Breakfast. 9.00 Brian Hayes 12.00 The Midday News. 1.00 Ruscoe and Co. 4.00 Drive.

حكدًا من الاجل

7.00 News Extra. 7.30 Muscular Prose, Nick Coleman explores the unusual, the exotic and the extreme in sport. (R) 8.00 Inside Edge. Rob Bonnet investigates the globalisation of sport. Whether it be football, Formula One or cricket, sport is increasingly bound up with the multimilion pound world of television rights. Where will it all end?

9.00 Off Piste. Clare Balding joins former downhill racer Konrad Bartelski for a round-up of this season's action on the slopes. All the latest news from the world of skiing and snowboarding plus the second record-breaking bid to ski every day for 365 days. 10.00 Late Night Live. With Nick

Robinson. 11.30 Millennium Fever. 12.30 Up All Night. 4.00 Extra Time. (R) 5.00 - 6.00 When Winter Comes.

CLASSIC FM (1000-1019MHz FM) 6.00 Nick Bailey. 8.00 Henry Kelly. 12.00 Requests. 2.00 Classic Celebrity Recitals. 3.00 Jamie Crick 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. 9.00 Evening Concert. 11.00 -

6.00 All Night New Year Ball VIRGIN RADIO (1215, 1197-1260kHz MW 1058MHz FM) 6.00 Jeremy Clark. 10.00 Russ Williams. 1.00 Nick Abbot. 4.00 Harriet Scott. 7.30 Wheels of Steel. 1.00 - 6.00 James Merritt.

WORLD SERVICE RADIO (198kHz LW) 1.00 Newsdesk. 1.30 Composer of the Month. 2.00 Newsday. 2.30 Focus on Faith. 3.00 World News. 3.05 World Business Report. 3.15 Sports Roundup. 3.30 Assignment.

4.00 - 7.00 The World Today. **TALK RADIO** 6.00 Bill Overton and Sally Meen. 9.00 Scott Chisholm. 12.00 Lorraine Kelly. 2.00 Nancy Roberts. 4.00 Peter Deeley. 5.00 The Sports Zone. 8,00 James Whale.

1.00 - 6.00 Gordon Astley.

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESS JON SPEELMAN

The Hastings International Chess Congress started on Tuesday with a bloodthirsty round in which three of the five games were decisive.

The drawing of lots, which determines the draw for the whole tournament had taken place in the bar of the venue, the Cinque Ports Hotel (01424-439222) on Monday evening. The arrangement is somewhat complex but does have the effect that the top half - in this case numbers 1 to 5, have an extra White. while the bottom half have (the alleged disadvantage of an extra Black. As a result on Monday No 1 Ponomariov played No 10 Plaskett, I No 2 played No 9 Shipov and continuing in the same way there were Miles v Sadler, Fressinet v Salter and Sokolov v Emms.

The tournament was officially opened by the local MP Michael Foster, who later performed the highly important function of starting the clocks. As is traditional, the very first move was also ceremonial, with the Mayor of Hastings, Godfrev Daniel, attempting 1.f3 for Tony Miles against Matthew Sadler. Miles, however, corrected this to the English Opening 1.c4 and they drew quite quickly.

All the other games went the distance. I got a reasonable position against Shipov but allowed some tactics to reach a worse endgame and was squeezed. Fressinet eventually drew with Salter after pressing and Ponomariov, as is his wont, won a long technical battle against Plaskett. But the game of the 14 Qc2 d5 day was definitely Ivan Sokolov's 15 f5 exf5

violent victory against John Emms. 9....Bxt3 was excessively bold against an axeman like Ivan. Instead 9....Bxc3+ was sensible when if 10. Oxc3 Ne4! should equalise while if 10. bxc3 d6 or 10....d5 is reasonable.

Sokolov built up his attack along the g file in exemplary fashion, not worrying about the discovered check which he allowed Emms in the diagram. For instance if 17....Ba3+ 18. Kf1 Bxb2 19. Nd5! is murderous.

17....g6? looks wrong however if he wants to take on h2 then he should play 17....Qc7 at once; moreover, the black squares were seriously weakened. After 23. Ba4! it was all over. At the end after 30....Qc8 (else 31. Rxh7!) 31. Qf4 Qf5 32. Qh6! Qxe4+ 33. Kg3 Qd3+ 34. f3 mates.

> Sokolov, I v Emms, J Hastings 1998 Queen's Indian Defence

1 d4 Nf6 16 Qxf5 dxc4 17 Bxc4 g6? 2 c4 e6 3 Nf3 b6 18 Qf3 Qc7 19 Bb3 Qxh2?! 4 Nc3 Bb4 5 Qb3 c5 20 Rh1 Qc7 6 Bg5 Bb7 21 Kf1 Qd8 7 Rd1 0-0 22 Re1 Rf8 8 e3 cxd4 23 Ba4 b5 9 exd4 Bxf3 24 Bxb5 Rb8 25 Bxd7 Qxd7 10 gxf3 Be7 11 Rg1 Re8 26 Rxe7 Qxe7 12 Be2 d6 27 Bxf6 Qe6 13 f4 Nbd7 28 d5 Qa6+ 29 Kg2 Rb6 30 Ne4 1-0

POKER DAVID SPANIER

IT'S THE time of New Year resolutions and all that. I have often set myself good resolutions in the past such as: don't play when drunk; don't play for more than you can afford; don't lend money at the table. And I have more or less kept to them. Interestingly, I find that these three conditions are likely to be broken simultaneously, rather than any one on its own.

In the old days, the traditional advice to new poker players was threefold, I. Don't play anyone with a diamond stick-pin. 2. Don't buy insurance from a man called Doc. 3. Don't play two small pairs in draw

I wonder if this advice might be updated for our own times? 1. Don't listen to horse-race tips at the table. 2. Never bluff a man with a higher stack. 3. Don't play short pairs at Hold 'em. If you dismiss this advice as shallow, just think how much money you would have saved last

year by observing these rules. All of which leads me to raise the basic question: why do you play poker? I mean, really, why? It's not for money. If you play in a card club, for an average, say, of four hours a day, five days a week, with a table charge of £5 an hour, your annual outgoings amount to £5,200, not

No.3807 Thursday 31 December

counting tips to waitresses for cups of tea and to doormen for parking.

Most players of my acquaintance haven't got the faintest chance of winning £5,200 in the year. Granted, a few people do. But for the vast majority, I think you will agree, the answer is no way. They win a bit, or even a lot; and feel great; and then lose it back, and feel miserable.

It is entirely different in a private game among friends, where the money goes around the table in a spirit of give and take, and there is no table charge.

So. if it's not the money, what is the motive? I think the answer is that poker is so fascinating that it is completely justified for its own sake. Each hand, each deal, offers a new challenge. Secondly, the interplay of character is endlessly absorbing. Better, I sometimes feel, than going to the theatre, because at poker you can sit down or get out as and when you feel like it.

And thirdly, the social mix. The game offers the chance to meet all sorts of people in that curious middle-ground that exists between close friendship and casual acquaintance. So my toast for 1999 is for more poker, win or lose - though I must admit, if you press me, that winning is better than losing.

SATELLITE AND CABLE

PICK OF THE DAY

(1996) (53986). 12.00 Clubhouse Detec rives (1996) (76412), 2.00 Phoenix and the Magic Carpet (1994) (85509), 4.00 A id in King Arthur's Court (1995) (8211). tick (1996) (13870509). 12.15 Last Man nding (1996) (415517). 2.00 Foxfire i6) (889130). 3.50 - 6.00 Nina Takes Mayall sitcom, The Young Ones 00 Jules Verne's 800 Leagues down the azon (1994) (35257). 7.30 Behind the perfall (1995) (76748238). 9.15 The Wind antics of the four squalid housesharing students (Mayall, Nigel Planer, Ade Edmondson and Chris Rvan) retain their crude capacity both to shock and to

IF YOU feel like watching other cause belly-laughs. Remember people misbehave on New Year's when Vyvyan (Edmondson) ate Eve without having to forsake the the telly in a vain attempt to comfort of your living-room, then conceal it from the TV licence tune into this four-hour long inspector? Along with comic screening of episodes of the cameos from Alexei Sayle, this Ben Elton, Lise Mayer and Rik series demonstrated the writing talents of Elton, which went on to (11pm UK Gold, right). The further expression in Blackadder. The show also foreshadowed the gross-out comedy of Mayall and Edmondson's Bottom (10.20pm UK Gold).



JAMES RAMPTON

sive Care: The Problem with Men (3240265). **1.00** Connections 2 by James Burke #422284), 1.30 Ancient Warriors

SKY ONE 8,00 Games World (4087967). 8.15 Games World (4060290). 8.30 Street Sharks (21899), 9.00 The Simpsons (45621), 9.30 Earthworm Jim (40412). 10.00 Hercules - the Legendary Journeys (94306), **11.00** The New Adventures of Superman (64770), **12.00** The Oprah Winfrey Show (30035). 1.00 Days of Our Lives (49783) 2.00 Sally Jessy Raphael (71967). 3.00 Jenny Jones (68344) 4.00 Gulityl (47851), **5.00** Star Trek: Deep Space Mine (4967), 6.00 Married with Children (4122). 6.30 Dream Team (8702). 7.00 The Simpsons (5696). 7.30 The Simpsons (4966). 8.00 Friends (4344), 8.30 Friends (3851). 9.00 Friends (43035). 9.30 Friends (3)764), 10.00 3rd Rock from the Sun (26344), 10.30 Married with Children (95144). 11.00 Dream Team (48580). 11.30

Friends (69122). 12.00 Sky Naws Bels (35159). 12.30 Highlander (69826). 1.30 -8.00 Long Play (6838913). SKY SPORTS 1 7.00 Sky Sports Centre (8856615). 7.15 World Wrestling Federation Shot Gun (692783). **8.15** Sky Sports Centre (8007306). 8.30 Racing News (56696). 9.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (47948), 9.30 Unbellevable Sports (82509), 10.00

(95073). 12-00 Aerobics - Oz Style (50412), **12.30** Unbellevable Sports (86325), **1.00** Motorcycling (32685), **3.00** Figure Skating (17580). 5.00 World Wrestling Federation Superstars (2431). 6.00 Sky Sports Centre (94344). 7.00 Gallette World Sport Special (3572). 7.30 Super League - Super Tries 1998 (46899) 8.30 Football Special - Goals and Bloopers (32948). 10.00 Sky Sports Centre (29967), 11.00 Super League Super Tries 1998 (42967), 12.00 Football Special - Goals and Bloopers (21739). 1.30 Futbol Mundial (66265). 2.00 Super League - Super Tries 1998 (67604). 3.00 Football Special - Goals and Bloopers (49915). 4.30 Sky Sports Centre (93178). 5.30 • 6.00 What a Weekend (87536). SKY SPORTS 2 7.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (3001122). 7.30

Sky Sports Centre (5320412). 7.45 Racing ws (8574870). **8.15** Unbellevable Sports (6792325), 8.45 Sky Sports Centre (5015702), 9.00 Fish TV Fishing Tex (2975948), 9.30 Fish TV Americana Outdoors (3030580). 10-00 Darts: World Championships (2233344), 2.00 Sports Unlimited (4296967), 3.00 Watersports World (8301899), 4.00 Ice Hockey (1194035), **6.30** The Rugby Club (6344306), **7.30** Motorcycling (1088509) 9.30 Fishing (8687851). 10.30 Football League Review (8184851). 11.30 What a Weekend (4284122). 12.00 ice Hockey (9022517), 2.30 Sky Sports Centre

(4210866). 3.30 Motorcycling (5891604). 5.30 - 6.00 Futbol Mundal (4116791) SKY SPORTS 3

12.00 World Wrestling Federation Super-stars (48641615). 1.00 Fish TV Fishing Texas (94816948). 1.30 Fish TV Americana Outdoors (48621851). 2.00 Olympic Series Golden Moments (67364851). 2.30 Sky Sports Classics Rugby Union -Biedisloe Cup (87848899). 3.30 Football Special: Goals and Bloopers (60223870). 5.00 Football League Review (67374238). 6.00 Fish TV Angling Masters (48647899), 7.00 Survival of the Fittest (67375967). 7.30 Football League Review (34263493). 8.30 What a Weekend (67363122), 9.00 The Rugby Club (65990073). 10.00-11.30 Bobby Charlton's Footbell Scrapbook (56446257).

7.30 Xtrem Sports Yoz Mag (52948). 8.30 Xtrem Sports (45948). 9.30 Triathion (90667). 11L00 Ski Jumping (98325). 12.30 Offroad (89677), 1.30 Bowling (69293). 3.00 Ski Jumping (12035). 4.30 Figure Skating (749667), 7.00 Cancing (15764), 8.00 Sumo (24412), 9.00 Motor Sport (1948), 10.00 Combat Sports (14035), 11.00 Sports Cock-Ups (80580). 11.30 And They Walked Away (33528). 12.30 Motor Sport (67284). 1.00 Close. UK GOLD

7.00 Crossroads (8016365); 7.30 Neighbours (4033509); 7.55 EastEnders (4440986). 8.30 The Bill (8756306). 9.00

The Bill (8770986), 9.30 Price and Prejudice (9636580), 10.30 Angels (8769870), 11.00 Dallas (3173580), 11.55 Neighbours (32522431). 12.25 EastEnders (2956580). 1.00 Pride and Prejudice (7029035), 2.00 Dallas (6293219), 2.55 The Bill (2648870). 3.25 The Bit (6855870), 3.55 EastEnders (7481306). 4.30 Angels (76009702). 4.55 hind (1975) (20556412). 6.45 Christmas Comedy Alternative: Only Fools and Horses (15363783). 8:10 Christmas Comedy Alemative: Porridge (8369851). 9.00 One Foot in the Grave (5636238). 9.40 Men Behaving Badly (7594306). 10.20 Bottom (5254054). See Pick of the Day. 11.00 The Young Ones (8970783) See Pick of the Day. 11.40 The Young Ones (8696899) 12.20 The Young Ones (7670888), 1.05 The Young Ones (2920420), 1.45 The Young Ones (1073197). 2.29 The Young Ones (3649505). **2.55 - 7.00** Shopping with Screenshop (13682975).

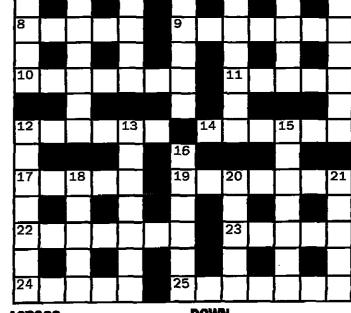
6.00 Tiny Living (9165899). 9.00 The Roseanne Show (4968325), 9.50 The Jerry Springer Show (5703528). 10.40 Michael Cole (3914986), 11.30 Bronkside (1841238). 12.00 Special Babies (3902219). 12.30 Rescue 911 (1475580). 1.00 Ready, Steady, Cook (1924580). 1.35 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (25577431). 2.00 Diana: a Day in the Life (7127344). 3.00 Films: All About Eve (1950) (92954)41). 5.35 Can't Cook Won't Cook (8710122). 6.10 The Jerry Springer Show (6447219), 7.00 Rescue 911 (7124306), 7.30 Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction (1793122). 8.00 Murder Call (9543832). 9.00 Films: Educating Rita (1983) (9553219). 11.00 Sex Life Down Under (1260832) 12.00 Close.

9.00 Tappy New Year: On the Town (1949) (65988238). **11.00** High Society (1956) (51939238). **1.00** An American in Paris (1951) (21692888). 3.00 Viva Las Vegas (1964) (75386456). **5.00** Close(). PARAMOUNT COMEDY CHANNEL

7.00 Ciueless (1702). 7.30 Desmonds (5870). 8.00 Roseanne (7122). 8.30 Just Shoot Me (6257). **9.00** Cybli (98509). **9.30** Seinfeld (97431). 10.00 Fraster (59783). 10.30 Cheers (88431). 11.00 Festival of Fun I (93054). **11.30** The Larry Sanders Show (14896). **12.00** Late Night with David Letterman (42604), 1.00 Taxi (27888), 1.30 The Critic (64807), 2.00 Dr Katz (50265), 2.30 Soap (39772). 3.00 Hooperman (30352), 3.30-4.00 Nohtstand (53352).

4.30 Planed Plant: Catrin, Lown and

Bedwyr present the popular children's magazine programme. In this edition, Gair am Aur lau - the youth guiz pro-



CONCISE CROSSWORD

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

BBC1 N IRELAND As BBC1 London except: 5.25 Newsline (2873238).

BBC1 SCOTLAND As BBC1 London except: 5-10 News (2878783), 5-25 Reporting Scot-land; Weather (2873238), 9-10 News; Regional News (Digital: UK Today); Weather (132344). 9.25 Robin Hall Remembered: Jimmie Mcgregor celebrates the life and music of Robin Hall (480493), 9.40 Och around the Clock: Dougle Vipond presents an irreverent romp through Scotland's chequered rock 'n' pop pest (469493). 10.30 Elaine rock in pop past (469493). 10.30 Elaine C Smith on Hogmanay: Elaine C Smith rings out the old year with 16 milligrams of bobbilly oosa, three types of short-bread, the Scottish Parliament and some toe-tapping tunes (55832). 11.00 Onty an Excuse? (909847). 11.35 Rev I M Joly (616764). 12.30 Resolutions 1998: A journey from despair to hooe (9187997). iv (616764). 12-30 mesourions 1996: A journey from despair to hope (9187997). 12-35 The End of the Year Show with Angle Desyston; Angus Desyston's big constructions of 1998. With Robble Coltrane, letter Western and here west appear. Julie Walters and two guest appearances from Steve Coogan (8349994).

1.45 Joins BBC News 24 (25032772).

BBC1 WALES As BBC1 London except: 5.25 Wales Today (2873238). ANGLIA

ANGLIA
As Cariton except: 9.25 ITN News
Headlines (4048870). 9.30 Anglia News
and Weather (5946238). 12.20 Anglia
News and Weather (6470783). 5.00 Anglia News and Weather (5580). 3.00
Film: The Running Man: Insurance agent
Alan Bates follows trail of clues to Spain
after pilot Laurence Harvey fakes his
own death. Lee Remick books photogenic in local surroundings but susgenic in local surroundings but sus-pense seems optional to director Carol pense séems optional le directif calo Reed. With Eleanor Summerfield (398623). 4.55 Soundtrax (56154933).

As Cariton except: 12.20 Central News and Weather (6470783). 12.30 ITN News; Weather (2155493). 500 Central News and Weather (5580). HTY WALES

As Carlton except: 12.20 HTV News (6470783), 4.30 Queine: Cookery quiz show presented by Chris Kelly. With a show presented by Chill News, with a celebrity check and casks up two mouth-watering recipes and passes on some top culinary tips (9224238). 4.55 HTV News (7543493). 3.00 Film: The Running Man (398623). **4.55** Soundtrax: Musicians talk about their work (56154933). HTV WEST

As HTV Wales except: 4.30 Murder, She Wrote: Murdery mystery series. Jessica and an old friend investigate the mysterious death of the owner of three brownstone buildings in New York. The city's on-street parking laws provide Jessica with the key to solving the case (1063238), 5.15 HTV News (2862122). MERIDIAN

Mac Carlton except: 10.40 Film:
Wild Hearts Can't Be Broken: During the
Depression, unhappy orphan Gabrielle
Anwar runs away from her foster home
to join a travelling carrival act - plunging
40 feet into water tanks astride a home. Curious fact-based Disney drama, beeu-tifully filmed in autumnal colours. With Michael Schoeffling, Cliff Robertson, Dylan Kussman (85628528). 12.15 Meridian News and Weather (3171219). 4.30 Meridian Tonight (71238). 5.30 TN News; Weather (507798). 3.00 Film: The Running Man (398623). 4.55 Soundtrax (56154933). WESTCOUNTRY As Cariton except: 10.40 Film: Wild Hearts Carit Be Broken (85628529).

12.15 Wastcountry News (3171219). 12.27 (Burningtions (6488702). 4.30 Westcountry Live (71238). 3.00 Film: The Running Man (398623). 4.55 Soundtrax (56154933). YORKSHIRE

As Cartton except: 12.20 Calendar News and Weather (6470783). 4.30 Tal-ent of Tomorrow: Talented youngsters from across the region battle it out before a studio audience to be named Tal-ent of Tomorrow'. Hostess Lisa Riley is joined by a panel of celebrity judges in-cluding Mark Curry and comedian Tom O'Connor (5013344). **5.20** Celendar TYNE TEES

As Yorkshire except: 12.20 North East News and Weather (6470783), 5.20 North East News and Weather (8989851). As Channel 4 except: 12.30

Planed Plant: Migmas a Pingu (51602865). 1.00 Words from My Father (66525325). 1.15 Alice through the Look-ing Glass: Adaptation of Lewis Carroll's ing class. Adaptation of Lewis carroins fantasy novel featuring an all-star cast. A tired mother reads the story to her daughter, only to find herself transported to the magical world (35418275).

Gramme - and Uned 5 (42516948). 5.30 Christmas Countdown (11930122). 6.00 Newyddion (19531986). 6.40 Heno (80261141). 7.00 Pobol y Cwm (33925615), 7.25 Penblwydd Hapus (17478257), 8.00 Camifal Y Cofi (16534290), **8.30** Newyddion (23892035), **8.45** Film: Gadael Lenin: Amiable comedy in which a group of vis-iting Welsh sixth-formers and their teachers are separated en route to St Petersburg, leaving both groups strand-ed in an allen culture, struggling to come to terms with themselves and their surroundings. (81812290). 10.30 Mary Post: Portread o Mary Lloyd-Davies: A portrait of opera singer Mary Lloyd Davies (42529412), 11.30 Noson Lawen (53154783), 12.30 Frasier: American Sitcom about a Seattle-based radio psy-chlarist. Frasier raveals Roz's pregnancy to her unknowing mother. And Niles gets stuck in the lift (21168975). 1.00 TFI Friday New Year: Highlights of the talk and music show presented by Chris Evans (99329246), 1.30 Adam and Joe's Toy Movie Special (73696246), 2.15 Close.

ACROSS

Seasons (7) Stops (5) Mistake (5)

9 Untruth (7) 10 Line touching curve (7) 11 African river (5) 12 Go in search of food (6)

14 Short sight (6) 17 Provide refreshments (5) 19 Tribe of warlike women (7) 22 Bring charges against (7)

23 Public (5) 24 Mother-of pearl (5) 25 Cultured (7)

DOWN

Heat metal to extract ore (5) Seafarer (7) Uncanny (5) Security (6) London borough (7) Mendacious (5) Spanish drink (7) 12 Dissident group (7) 13 Rubbish (7) 15 Type of TV programme (5-2) 16 Slice of bacon (6) 18 Subject (5) 20 Distant (5) 21 Fully satisfied (5)

Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword: ACROSS: 1 Oucue, 4 Tickle (Cuticle), 9 Aileron, 10 Tulle, 11 Tote, 12 Carbine, 13 Fal. 14 Raja, 16 Orgy, 18 Hem, 20 Pro rata, 21 Soar, 24 Alibi, 25 Inertia, 26 Exhume, 27 Dacha, DOWN: 1 Quartz, 2 Eclat, 3 Earl, 5 Intercom, 6 Killing, 7 Eleven, 8 Enact, 13 Patalism, 15 Abolish, 17 Opiate, 18 Habit, 19 Errata, 22 Optic, 23 Bead.



THE THITRSDAY REVIEW

PETER CONCHIE

TELEVISION REVIEW

ile of dramatic note.
unwhile, BBC2 followed
r impressive adaptation of
ury James's The American
soxing Day with A Rather
glish Marriage.
This was boldly flagged as
w drama". In light of this
w drama" in light of this
w drama facts are perhaps
toverlooked: first of all, it
an adaptation; secondly, it
dramatised by grizzled
unnier Andrew Davies.
at's more, it starred those
ous old prunes Tom
ous old prunes Tom ey. A case of new

Angela Lambert's story is Angela Lambert's story is assentially lightweight, a seentially lightweight, a seentially lightweight, a learned piece on loss, class and lid age, which Davies, to his redit, freshened up onsiderably. Courtenay was vonderful as Roy Southgate, in ex-milkman who was vidowed on the same night as vidowed on the

The manner of the deaths of the manner of the deaths of ggie and Southgate's wives, hin minutes on the same pital ward, was used as a cabre device to define the viving partners' social nding. The milko's missus de a raging, ratiling exit, ile the squadron leader's suse didn't want any fuss, i croaked quietly without so ch as a tug on the bedside erdency cord consented, but, given, the impatient demands of the makeover format, I was concerned on their behalf. Perhaps they would awake at dawn to find cloisters painted in ecclesiastical colours or a bald patch mown into the the quattrangle lawn. Presenter-designer Paul Thompson was serenity itself, and humanised the monks, who were given the courtesy of a proper introduction, and were conversed with rather than asked the usual

Lumley's performance as a gold-digger was enthusiastic, if a little uneven. The make-up department had done something clever with blusher, which aged her disconcertingly, although, ironically, Lumley was playing a character roughly her own age. As a seductress she is still superb, with an alturing ability to dilate her pupils on cue like a car flashing its headights.

Depends, to a degree, on who you want wishing you a "happy New Year". Most people would agree that Jools Holland (right) is the best of a poor bunch (Carol Smillle, John Leslie and Jenny Powell being the others), and he's certainly got the most stylish guests with whom to see in 1999. Tom Jones, All Saints, Sharleen Spiteri of Texas and the Beautiful South's Paul Heaton all perform with Holland's Rhythm and Blues Orchestra, while the Corrs, Catatonia and Mercury prizewinners Gonez do it for themselves. The New Year itself will

novelistic flashback of gr bereavement, at times D used the technique as a

eggie sturnie top of the stairs, ne top of the stairs, outhgate at the foot. "It was he prison. My son's dead. Can take the car?" The phrases were weighted beautifully, were weighted beautifully. were frequently flown back to helr youth, where they opened floors on a past peopled with ghosts which segued rather too neatly to the subsequent scene. There was some movingly sparse dialogue, such as the exchange after Southgate took an early morning phone call. Reggie stood symbolically at the ton of the stairs.

he prison. My son's dead. Can take the car?" The phrases were weighted beautifully, nunctuated by an unspoken and poignant telegramatic stop". All told, it was a rather English drama. "I never could it and hospitals," Hoggie lustered to his dying wife. "We net in one," she replied. 100

met in one," she replied.
Another habitually male environment formed the backdrop for a contemplative edition of Garden Doctors (C4). It would have been impractical and undignified to rush an order of Benedictine monks into finishing their tea, let alone fandscaping a garden, something recognised in the first of a two-part garden redesign located at Quarr Abbey on the Isle of Wichi.

y's empty , with Southgate The brothers were not in a hurry, holding numerous meetings and taking a field trip to the mainland before they consented, but, given, the

crass questions.
One was an ex-teacher, another once worked in the music industry. "My mother was rather disappointed I became a monk," one chimed, "but I suppose lots of mothers are disappointed with their disappointed with their

MUSIC SHOW OF THE DAY

BBC

10.30 7.10 Children's BBC; Poddington Peas (R) (6738219), 7.15 Teletubbles (5722561), 7.40 Yogi's Treasure Hunt (R) (1574948), 8.00 Newsround Review of the Year (6420-561), 8.35 Taz-Mania (8032870), 9.00 Sweet Valley High (R) (7514764), 9.25 The Fame Game (7533899), 9.50 Teletubbles (1606698), 10.20 News; Weather (8172561).

12.00 Wipeout (S) (T) (9718054). 12.25 Laughing for Ages (S) (8465344). 1.00 News; Weather; Regional News (21207412). 1.15 Neighbours (S) (T) (58675832). ITIM Herble Qoes Bananas (Vincent McEveety 1980 US). The sentient Volkswagen is shipped to Rio and becomes involved in smuggling stolen art (19122).

INTERPOLE EVEN With Dad (Howard Deutch 1984 US). Ex-convict Ted Danson tries bonding with his son, Macaulay Culkin (S) (T) (75861431).

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The World's Strongest Man (S) (T) (2750388).
3.55 Boyzone: A Live and Kicking Year (3942509). 4.20 Blue Peter - Magic Moments (S) (T) (8448685). 4.45 Neighbours (S) (T) (8227325). 5.10 News; Weather (T) (2878783). 5.25 Local News (2873238).

Shaggy-dog sequel, with virtually the same cast, which means that it benefits from a reprise of Charles Grodin's wonderful performance as the grouchy paterfamilias who owns the titular St Bernard. This time, Beethoven is in love, which throws four pupples into the now familiar mix of domestic chaos and animal antics. It'll keep the kids amused (6224967).

7.00 EastEnders. Will Frank make it back for New Year's Eve? Surely the question on everyone's lips this New Year. And will Tiffany's plans for the future include Grant or Beppe? (5) (7) (691621).

7.45 Jane's Cruise to the Stars. This year's Maureen from Driving School – le an unlikely celebrity thrown up by a docu-soap -- is "British singing sensation" (oh, please) Jane McDonald from BBC1's The Cruise. This one-off – thank heavens – film follows the Yorkshire chariteuse as she plays the London Palladium (326632).

10.00 News; Regional News; Weather (T) (434509). 10.15 They Think It's All Over. Phil Jupitus, lain Lee and Vinnie Jones are the boys' guests (S) (T) (254412).

10.45 The End of the Year Show with Angus
Deayton. Angus Deayton looks back at the highlights
of 1998 with Robbie Coltrene, Julie Walters and
two of Steve Coogen's characters – Mancunian headbutter Paul Calf and Portuguese crooner Tony Ferrino
(S) (T) (155073). 11,40

New Year Live (S) (352344), **12.30** Happy New Year (S) (9187997).

UK). Ill-advised attempt to revive the much-loved series, with a strong Comic Strip contingent boosting old timers Jim Date and Bernard Cribbins (followed by Westher) (S) (T) (6751343). To 2.05am.

4,30

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8.30 Naked Eurovision. Richard Fairbrass goes behind the scenes of the 1998 Eurovision Song Contest and uncovers the "tantrums, tiaras and technical challenges" that faced the contestants (S) (T) (854412).

Shirley Bassey: Viva Dival All together now: "Gooodd fing-a". Shirley Bassey sings some of her most memorable songs with support from the company of the hit musical Chicago (S) (T) (804141).

5

11.55 DIDE Joots's Sixth Annual Hootenanny. If you insist on seeing in the New Year with your TV set, this is probably the best programme to see it in with. See Music Show of the Day, below (S) (T) (945073).

1.25 The Best of Qiastonbury 98. Mud, glorious mud, and Tony Bennett, Blur, Pulp, Catatonia, Embrace, Underworld, Portishead, Spiritualized, Gomez, Bernard Butler and Bob Dylan (followed by Skiing Forecast). To 3am.

8.35 1111 Come Blow Your Horn (Bud Yorkin 1963 US). Nell Simon comedy starring Frank Sinatra as the swinging bachelor with a nagging father (Lee J Cobb) showing his kid brother the ropes in New York (18824702).

Somewhat toothless remake of *The Philadelphila Story*Somewhat toothless remake of *The Philadelphila Story*boasts Grace Kelly's last acting role, Bing Crosby
and Louis Armstrong duetting on "Now You Has Jazz",
and a number of Cole Porter songs, including "Did You
Evah" and "You're Sensational" (52895122).

6.45

7.45 Mark Lamarr's New Year In. Mark Lemarr Introduces a night of programming (S) (T) (163528).

8.20 Rex the Runt (S) (T) (580431).

8.30 The Making of Robot Wars. This Div-robot-challenge show is quite fun, but do we really need to know all this? (S) (T) (543967).

9.05 The Simpsons. Bart manages to get Principal Skinner fired (S) (T) (226122).
9.30 A Kick up the Archive. Compilation show of archive material from A Kick Up the Eighties, Laugh?? I Nearly Paid My Licence Fee, and Naked Video, and featuring Rik Mayall, Robbie Coltrane, Tracey Ullman, Gregor Fisher, John Sessions, etc (S) (T) (487899).

GIDIO3 The Rocky Horror Picture Show (Jim Sharman 1975 UK). Cult comedy musical about two innocent sweethearts who stumble upon a creepy old house full of transsexual revellers. See Film of the Day, below (T) (819685).

10.45 Stanley Baxter in Person. The Scottish comedian reflects on his 40 years in showbusiness, eided by the likes of Billy Connolly, Robble Coltrane, Pory Bremner and Lufu (T) (531275).

11.45 Edinburgh's Hogmanay Live! (463509).

12.05 [][[M] Down and Out in Beverly Hills (Paul

2.00 Instant Replay (94710). TIM Down and Out in Beverly Hills (Paul Mazursky 1986 US). Above-par satire with Nick Noite as the tramp turning the lives of Beverly Hills residents Bette Midler and Richard Dreyfuss upside down (256791).

3.00 **INTERPOLE OF STATE O** BBC2

6.20 IIIM Limelight (Charlie Chaplin 1952 US).
Pompous, self-agrandising Chaplin talkie with the great man playing a washed-up music-hall star (1) (61660035).

6.10 Poppea. Continuing the serialised version of David Alden's productioin of Monteverdi's opera about intrigue at the court of the Emperor Nero. Poppea (Catrin Wyn Davies) runs into her former husband and makes it clea that she is now far out of his reach (S) (375412).

FIDIRE Decisive Moments: Images from the News 1998. The photographers who took some of the key images of this year tell the stories behind their snaps. See Documentary of the Day, below (S) (T) (777073).

7.50 New Year Horrors. Mark Lamarr argues a case for New Year's Eve being the most overrated festival of the year (S) (T) (617764).

Walls. This, the second Ruth Rendell mystery of the season, stars a teenage newcomer going by the wonderful name of Honeysuckle Weeks. She plays a 16-year-old girl who is evacuated to the countryside to live with her aunt's tamily in 1941, the said-aunt's body soon being discovered in the woods, Sylvia Sims and Marsha, Fitzalan also star (S) (T) (91386).

10.30 ITN News; Weather (T) (404561).

10.25 Perfectly Frank (4187696). 10.30 The West (S) (T) (89365661). 12.25 Classics for Kids (1723899). 1.15 The Royal Institution Christmes Lectures: Staying Alive – the Body in Balance (S) (T) (874325). 2.15 Perfectly Frank (68579764). 2.20 Rex the Runt (68590257). 2.30 Rex the Runt (S) (T) (1285764). 2.40 Cambridge Folk Festival (S) (2245493). 3.20 The Old Lady and the Pigeons (R) (S) (100649). 3.45 Video Nation :: Best of 98 (7035892). 4.25 Perfectly Frank (S) (T) (1309851).

6.

700

The Bill. The revitalised plod soap knocks out another hour-long episode. In "S.A.D", the seasonal sales bring more than Ashton bargained for (T) (46325).

9.30

10.30 Frasier. A seasonal epsiode of the Seattle shrink sitcom. Niles gets stuck in the lift (R) (S) (T) (71870).

11.15 TFI Friday New Year (243306). 11.45 Eurotrash New Year (242677). 12.15 Adam and Joe's Toy Movie Special (8775352).

10.40 IIIM Wild Hearts Can't Be Broken
(Steve Miner 1991 US). Thirties orphan Gabrielle
Anwar runs away to become a stuntwoman.

Far from the Madding Crowd (R) (T) (23401). 4.30 Videotech (S) (677). 5.00 London Tonight (T) (5580). 5.30 News; Weather (T) (507788).

5.40 Emmerdale. A gun-wielding Billy is cornered by the police (S) (T) (593764).

The Freddle Starr Show. The alleged-hamstereater's guests are the Woolpackers (Emmerciale cast members sing country), a line-dancing troupe and megician Wayne Dobson (S) (T) (100035).

Dingles Down Under. Feature-length spin-off from Emmerdate, which was being sold as a video (increasing numbers of soaps are branching out into this market) and follows the Dingle family's adventures in Australia. Uttarly dire (S) (T) (26615).

8.30 Heroes of Comedy: Benny HIII. If you set through the above and still have the stomach for more, here's a chance to hear tributes from Henry McGee, Dick Van Dyke, Bob Monkhouse, Caroline Aherne and Reg Varney (R) (S) (T) (44957).

The Greatest Rory Ever Told. Impressionist Rory Bremner is joined by long-time colleagues John Bird and John Fortune in a humorous review of 1998. The programme includes highlights of shows past, including "Richard Whiteley's Serbian Countdown", "Ainsley Harriott's Can't Cook, Don't Give a Toss" and the infamous royal family sciition of "Jerry Springer" (99870).

11.00 Your Favourite Frasier. Clips from four Frasier episodes, one of which will be shown tomorrow, depending on how viewers vote (859788).

1.05 111/1 House Party (Reginald Hudlin 1990 US).
Upbeat comedy taking a refreshing and intelligent look at black teenage life, and featuring a host of rap stars in various roles (675894), to 2.55am.

Carlton

Channel

.00 QMTV (1798141). 9.25 ITN News Headlines (4039122). Children's ITV: Tiny Toon Adventures (R) (S) (T) (1614615). 10.00 Rocky and the Dodos (R) (S) (7920986). 10.20 Brilliant Creatures (R) (3002122).

7.00 Ovide (R) (55493), 7.30 The Magic School Bus (R) (S) (74528). 8.00 The Big Breakfast (46257). 10.00 Buzz (49344). 10.30 Eerle, Indiana (R) (T) (70141). 11.00 Madison (S) (T) (5561). 11.30 Babylon 5 (88141).

12.30 The Windrush Years. Compilation of testimonies from Britain's early West Indian immigrants (R) (4621431).

1.15 Schumann's Lost Romance. Cellist and Schumann enthusiast Steven Isserils travels to Germany to recon-struct the last years of the composer's life (S) (7761615).

he Deutsche

9.50 My Story (6788073). 10.20 Sunset Beach (S),(T) (1798603). 11.10 Lesza (R) (S) (8104783). 12.00 5 News at Noon (S) (T) (7231141). 12.30 Family Affairs (S) (T) (2852851). 1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful (8615870). 1.30 Wowlabgrowy (S) (T) (2851122). 2.00 100 Per Cent (S) (1132702). 2.30 Good Afternoon (S) (2806677).

8.30 ITIM Lassie: Flight of the Cougar (Jack B Hively 1967 US). A wounded cougar, an untamed stallion and a crashed gilder all pose questions for the superintelligent collie (95199986).

6.00 The Wind in the Willows (R) (25509509), 6.25
Roobarb (R) (37096615), 6.30 Dappledown Farm (R)
(4280412), 7.00 Wimzle's House (R) (8623899), 7.30
Milkshakel (S) (2262899), 7.35 Havakazoo (R) (S)
(6827702), 6.00 George of the Jungle (R) (7238054),

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12.20 Your Shout (6470783). 12.30 News (2155493).

12.50 IIIVI Watership Down (Martin Rosen 1978 UK). Animated version of Richard Adams's spic tale, with the rabbits voiced by John Hurt, Richard Briers, Ralph Richardson, Denholm Elliott, Harry Andrews, Joss Ackland and Nigel Hawthorne, Art Garfunkel even provided a theme tune (T) (82857561).

2.10 Schumann Cello Concerto. Pering Steven Isseriis (see above) with the Du Kammerphilharmonie (T) (17865073).

2.50 Wine Hunt. The teams of amateur wine buffs hit Burgundy (S) (T) (5177621). 2.35 Roots to Success. Cardening tips (6941870).

thought you might have seen the last of this tedious synchronised serobics speciacular, Channel 4 inflict a performance recorded at New York's Radio City Music Hall in October 1996. At least there's no Michael Flatley. Colin Dunne and Jean Butler are the principal tappity-tappers (R) (S) (T) (7880696). 3.15 Tool Stories (1118677). 3.50 Fifteen to One Highlights (T) (9115764). 4.30 Countdown (T) (9215580). 4.85 Ricki Lake (R) (T) (7541035). 5.30 Garden Doctors (999).

5.55 Russell Grant's Postcards (R) (2063412).
6.00 100 Per Cent. The game show without a host (S) (2067141).

3.30 [IIII] Fort Apache (John Ford 1948 US). The first of Ford's "cavalry trilogy" about a commanding officer, bitter at his treatment after the Civil War, who takes his resentment out on the men of a remote desert fort. With John Wayne, Hanry Fonda and Shirley Temple (34425865).

7.10 The Best of Benny Hill. A compilation of the gurning, skirt-chasing funnymen's sketches, made in 1974 at the height of his popularity in this country (1109832).

6.30

Family Affairs. Dave arranges a tryst with Holly but has to cancel when her mother turns up as well (S) (T) (5309702).

7.05 TIME Seems like Old Times (Jay Sandrich 1980 US). Neil Simon's homage to 1930s screwball farces is helped along by a good cast. Goldle Hawn is the lawyer who finds her marriage to her new husband (Charles Grodin, wasted in the role) jeopardised by the antics of her ex-husband (Chevy Chase), who is being forced to help rob a bank (T) (80220702).

9.05 Night Fever. Suggs hosts a special New Year's edition of the karaoke entertainment show, with Philippa Forrester, Claudia Winkteman, Francine Lewis, Gall Porter, Gaynor Faye, Shaun Williamson, Jonathan Morris, Craig Charles, Victor Ubogu and Keith Chegwin. With music from Utter Madness and Lenny Beige (7655899).

pathos coming out of its ears", according to one critic. Locsely based on Pat Barker's Testde-based novel Union Street, Jane Fonda stars as a recently widowed New York cake-factory worker who befriends a shy, withdrawn baker (Robert De Niro) and tearns that his reticence is due to his inability to read – a secret he has kept for years. She sets about teaching him, and a cautious love affair soon follows. All very tine, and quite nicely handled if you can befieve Fonda and De Niro in these roles (T) (6107832).

11.50 Night Fever (S) (T) (7448122).

12.05 13111 Common Law Cabin (Russ Meyer 1967 US).

Big-breasted mayham in Colorado (S) (40312062).

ITEM Soldiers of Innocence (Han Woo Jung 1990 US). Memories haunt a Korean War veteran when he returns to the country (5910401). To 320am.

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TELEVISION GUIDI: BY GERARD GJI.BERT



No one would claim this was a great film, or even a good one, but never before has a movie won itself such a cult following. Based on Richard O'Brien's stage musical, it tells the tale of a couple (played by Barry Bostwick and Susan Sarandon, right) whose car breaks down in a storm in Ohio, forcing them to take refuge in mansion owned by Tim Curry's low-camp Dr Frank N Furter. It's a trash spoof of RKO horror pictures, involving sex, cannibalism, transsexuats — just the sort of nonsense that's perfect for New Year's Eve. Not for

irrages of 1998 and the stories behind them, with newspaper picture editors, photo-agency bosses and the photographers themselves. We hear how the shot of Pol Pot's corpse was obtained, as well as the famous picture of President Clinton lugging Monica Lewinsky (right) and – from the tabloid side – Prince Harry abseiling and Gazza's kebab. But what makes a historic photograph, other than being simply newsworthy? As well as being a fascinating look at the lensman's art, Elaine Shepard's film, is a useful news review, especially as we don't seem to getting one of those this year.

DOCUMENTARY OF THE DAY





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